

*Hafa Adai!*

Spay, neuter services on  
Saipan in May.

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60 prospective jurors for trial of  
Dynasty's owner.

» PAGE 7

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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75¢

## Teens burglarize WSR school

» 2 adults allegedly masterminded burglary  
» Laptops, other items worth \$7,801 stolen

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**P**olice arrested two men who allegedly instructed a group of teenagers to burglarize the William S. Reyes Elementary School in Chalan Kanoa, where laptops and other items worth \$7,801.40 were stolen last Dec. 20.

Ignacio Leon Guerrero, 33, was arrested in Chalan Kanoa on Tuesday night for conspiracy, burglary, and theft, while

Vincent Sanchez, 19, was apprehended in Chalan Kanoa on

See **TEENS** on **Page 4**

## Bolivar reaffirms the importance of CNMI

» Whelden: CSIS report validates importance of region

By **MARK RABAGO**  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Joint Region Marianas commander Rear Adm. Bette Bolivar reiterated the importance of the CNMI—and the Marianas in general—during his meeting with Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres earlier this week.

“There’s absolutely no se-



Bolivar

cret that the CNMI is a vital asset and a significant value to our national security. The fact that we’re collaborating with them... the CNMI, Guam, everything in the Joint Marianas is important to us and contributes to our national security. The fact that we’re out here in the middle of rebalancing to the Pacific is key and the CNMI

See **BOLIVAR** on **Page 4**



## Marpi remedial study aims to be completed in July

By **DENNIS B. CHAN**  
dennis\_chan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Marpi Point Field—a “formerly used defense site” and part of the Marpi area that was once estimated to have about 6.6 million lbs of ordnance in 1964—will continue to be stud-

ied this February for remedial actions for any ordnance and contamination leftover from World War II.

Right now, this “remedial investigation/feasibility study” has a hopeful completion date of July this year. Field activities on the

See **MARPI** on **Page 4**

## GIFTED MUSICIANS

Yeosu Gifted Youth Orchestra conductor Du-Sup Park leads dozens of Korean student musicians before a packed crowd at the American Memorial Park last Wednesday afternoon. The orchestra later performed with the Manta Ray Band of Saipan Southern High School.

DENNIS B. CHAN

See story on **Page 6**

## INSIDE



### BUSINESS

We burn 2.7 million gallons a minute, so why's oil so cheap these days?

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### NATION

Two men completes what is considered the world's most difficult rock climb.

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### ASIA

Pope Francis is heading for the Philippines where adoring crowds await him.

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By **MARK RABAGO**  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Instead of just dividing appropriations equally among precincts, Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan) would like to see that projects on the island be prioritized based on their importance.

And this is what he wants to implement if he wins the chair-

## IF HE WINS SNILD CHAIRMANSHIP

# Sablan wants Saipan projects prioritized

manship of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation. Sablan is vying for the post with 18th SNILD chair Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan).

"What I plan to do is ask each member to look into their precinct-level issues and projects that they propose to do. Put it on the table and do appropriations based on priorities. Look

at the important projects here on Saipan. I want to ask our members to gather what they feel is important to develop and instead of just dividing the money among members, we should base the appropriation by prioritizing what's best for Saipan," he said.

Sablan, who didn't take any standing committee chairmanships so he can vie for the

SNILD top post, said he's open to seeing the whole gamut of projects considered for Saipan, whether it's for tourism, infrastructure, or the likes as long as it grows the economy.

"We have a lot to do here with the promising casino buildup and with the construction of more hotel rooms. We need a lot of new infrastructure because of

See **PROJECTS** on Page 4

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# Ex-employee opposes CUC bid to have his suit junked

Carlton Stevens, a former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. employee, has asked the federal court to deny CUC's motion to dismiss his discrimination lawsuit against the agency.

Stevens, through counsel Pamela Brown Blackburn, also requested the court to give him an opportunity to amend his complaint if the court finds defects in his first amended complaint.

Blackburn argued that Stevens' complaint satisfies federal rules of procedure because it identifies claims for which relief can be granted.

Blackburn said the complaint also provides fair notice of the factual circumstances giving rise to the claim.

"The test for the sufficiency of a complaint at the pleading stage is not one of evidentiary production or persuasion, but simply of notification," she said.

Blackburn said that Stevens has sufficiently plead his retaliation claim regarding CUC's refusal to hire him for his former position due to his filing of his Equal Employment Opportunity Commission claims regarding employment discrimination based on race and retaliation

charges against CUC.

In CUC's motion to dismiss the amended complaint, CUC counsel James S. Sirok, asserted that the lawsuit fails to properly allege subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure because jurisdictional requirements have not been satisfied.

Sirok argued that to bring a Title VII of the Civil Rights Act claim, plaintiff is required to exhaust administrative remedies by filing a claim with the EEOC.

Sirok said Stevens did not actually apply for the position

until Jan. 21, 2014, when he applied for the position but was informed it was withdrawn.

"This was approximately 11 months after his contract had expired, thus breaking any inference of causation," he said.

Stevens, an African-American, sued CUC and its four officials for allegedly not renewing his contract as direct responsible charge operator in CUC's wastewater division, providing him a used and inoperable computer, and not providing him an office space, among other complaints.

Stevens asked the court to

hold the defendants liable to pay him unspecified compensatory damages, courts costs, and attorney's fees.

Last month, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed Stevens' discrimination lawsuit.

Manglona dismissed Stevens' claims against CUC, executive director Alan Fletcher, human resources director Frank Cepeda, wastewater manager Richard Wasser, and water and wastewater manager Paul Raczkowski, for lack of subject matter jurisdiction.

Manglona dismissed with

prejudice all Stevens' claims against Fletcher, Cepeda, Wasser, and Raczkowski, and dismissed without prejudice his complaint against CUC.

Dismissed with prejudice means Stevens can't re-open the claims anymore. Dismissed without prejudice means the plaintiff can re-file the claims in the future.

Manglona granted Stevens 14 days from the date of the order in which to file a second amended complaint.

Stevens subsequently filed the second amended complaint. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

## US makes available \$109M to FSM

In October and November, the Federated States of Micronesia received notification from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs, that fiscal year 2015 Compact sector grant awards totaling \$58,106,384 for the FSM states and College of Micronesia-FSM had been obligated.

The awards are as follows:

- Annual Sector Grants, \$52,331,216
- Education, \$24,395,576
- Health, \$20,111,540
- Capacity Building, \$2,381,286
- Environment, \$1,520,544
- Private Sector Development, \$1,988,599
- Reporting and Accountability, \$1,200,471
- FSM Single Audit, \$500,000

- Disaster Assistance Emergency Fund, \$233,200
- Infrastructure Grants, \$805,000
- CPUC Generator, \$470,000
- Kosrae Infrastructure -
- Maintenance Fund, \$100,000
- Pohnpei Schools Design, \$235,000
- Carry-Over Grants: \$5,071,968
- Education, \$2,712,764
- Health, \$1,592,164
- Capacity Building, \$492,550
- Environment, \$102,490
- Private Sector Development, \$172,000

This amount is in addition to the fiscal year 2014 obligations for the Supplementary Education Grant, which totals \$11,121,580, and the Chuuk

Measles Outbreak Grant of \$356,233, both to be used during fiscal year 2015.

The Carry-over Grant awards for 2015 include such projects as rehabilitation of the Chuuk Gymnasium for use by the high school, assisting Kosrae's efforts to develop appropriate electronic waste disposal systems, developing community sports programs to reduce non-communicable diseases in Pohnpei, and creating a Tourism Survey and Data Collection System in Yap.

An additional \$24 million was added to the Infrastructure fund, which has a balance of

\$126 million.

The U. S. Department of the

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Interior, Office of Insular Affairs also makes an annual payment to the FSM's Compact Trust Fund. This year the pay-

ment amount was \$26,976,960 bringing the current value of the trust fund to over \$400 million. *(U.S. Embassy Kolonia)*

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## 2nd selfie emerges in investigation of Guam officer's photos

**HAGATNA, Guam** (AP)—Another photograph that appears to show a Guam police

detective posing with a crime suspect has surfaced.

The Pacific Daily News re-

ports the second photo surfaced this week as police investigate a photo of the same officer—

in the style of a selfie—with a woman he arrested in a vehicle.

The first photograph shows

the suspect holding a printout of her mug shot. It prompted an internal investigation by the Guam Police Department after it started making the rounds on social media.

The second photograph ap-

pears to show the same detective sitting in the back seat of a vehicle with a suspect who appears to be in handcuffs.

A police spokesman says the second photograph will likely become part of the investigation.

## MARPI

From Page 1

site are slated for mid- to late February. But this is also dependent on details from a biological survey for endangered birds in the area, and an issue over some private lands that take up a few acres on the site.

The study will serve as the basis for the recommendation of remedial action for explosives and contamination on the 410-acre site.

Parsons project manager Don M. Silkebakken, contracted by the U.S. Army Corps for the study, spoke at a public hearing Wednesday night. He said that in February they would “go back and identify anomalies for intrusive investigation,” “dig them out of the course of the entire site” and “make an assessment of the kind of removal action to be done.”

To do this, five foot wide transect lines will be established parallel across the site, with lines set 250 feet apart, according to Silkebakken. These transects would be out of road view, and geophysical mapping and intrusive investigation for anomalies will follow.

“In essence, we are going to brush cut those transect lines to create pathways across the site for us to go in to digital mapping,” Silkebakken said.

This data will be used to assess areas for “low density and high density” anomaly counts, according to him.

The February activities will also take into account findings of archaeological and biological surveys done in October and

November last year.

The biological survey found some “old growth vegetation” and detected the presence of the nightingale reed warbler, an endangered bird.

The old airfield was originally clear-cut to the ground by Japanese forces to put in their airfield. Because of this, “everything that has grown since then is not old growth,” and “is invasive vegetation that grew since the war ended,” according to Silkebakken yesterday.

He added that, “there is a sliver along the coast—maybe 5 to 6 acres of area—that was left there that wasn’t cut down in the 1940s.”

This area was identified in the biological survey and will not be brush cut, he said.

As for the birds, Silkebakken said the company that did the survey “heard reed warblers singing.”

“None were seen,” he added. “But they heard them.”

The second biological survey will start in the next three or four weeks to “find how many are actually there,” according to him. Additionally, megapodes—another endangered bird—will be checked too. This survey will take about two months, he said.

Further inspection for contamination of soil will probably be done in the next few months as well. This, according to Silkebakken, will “recheck the data” that the Army Corps got in their study of the same area in 2009.

The data is available in the Joteten Kiyu Public Library. These samples show “elevated levels of metal in the soil,” according to Silkebakken. “We believe this

to be attributable to the munitions’ presence,” he said.

About 50 historical artifacts were also found during a historical survey of the site. This was documented but will not be released to the public, out of the concerns for protection of these artifacts.

Silkebakken said he could not elaborate much on the topic but said the survey “found some old pottery shards” predating far past World War II in the “old growth” vegetation area on site.

As for WWII artifacts, they found “a spoon from a Japanese mesh kit” and “part of a broken teapot” with Japanese symbols on it, Silkebakken said.

Asked what they would do with ordnance found during their investigation, he said they have met with the Department of Public Safety on this.

“We just came from a meeting with the Department of Public Safety. We are either going to detonate it on the site or [DPS] is going to come and take it off the site,” he said.

The remedial study being done will further define “how bad the situation is,” and if all of the 410 acres are impacted, he said. If not, he added, they would identify what areas are “more or highly contaminated versus others.”

He said that in a probable timeframe of about a couple of years, there will be removal action that “cleans up everything.”

Another issue they are aware of are “very small,” multiple parcels of land along the southern side of the site near the old Japanese Command Post, according to Silkebakken. The rest of site be-

longs to the Department of Public Lands, he said.

Silkebakken said most of these properties have multiple owners. “There heirs pass it down from one to the next, and nobody lives on the property, they are just pieces of property with nothing on them,” he said.

“So we have to get authorization from all people listed as an owner on any individual property, and they don’t all necessarily live on Saipan, and it is a difficult path, and it is an ongoing path,” he said.

If they could not get authorization in a reasonable time, he said those pieces of property “would not be included in this current investigation” and a letter would be sent to all owners telling them essentially that if they don’t allow the Army Corps to inspect the area “they are basically agreeing that they accept that risk.”

### Public involvement

Only a few showed up at Wednesday night’s public hearing, made up mostly of individuals involved with the project, media, and a local businessman.

“We are looking for as much feedback as we can get,” Silkebakken said at the hearing, as Marpi is a known tourist site.

He told the *Saipan Tribune* that any feedback or information that local community can give would be appreciated.

He said the public could contact U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Honolulu District’s Helene Takemoto with their input, or for more information.

Takemoto can be reached at 808-835-4088 or at FUDS-POH@usace.army.mil.

that they burglarized WSR. He said Leon Guerrero then forced Sanchez and three of them to burglarize the school’s maintenance room and take items to sell them.

Sanchez and the three minors then proceeded that same night to the school and stole laptops and other items. They brought the stolen items to Leon Guerrero’s house.

Muna said during a search at Leon Guerrero’s house last Dec. 29, they recovered one black Acer and one black HP laptops that have WSR markings.

Muna said Leon Guerrero said the two boys brought the laptops to his house “to fix it.”

Muna said the “other boy” also confessed last Dec. 31 that he and the 14-year-old boy first burglarized the school where they stole food after their soccer game.

Muna said last Jan. 5, Sanchez also confessed that it was his plan to burglarize the school, where they stole laptops and other items.

Sanchez also allegedly admitted that they brought the stolen items to Leon Guerrero’s house.

a police officer was dispatched to WSR school last Dec. 21 at 6:19pm after police received a call about a burglary incident.

Muna said the officer learned from a WSR staff that burglars entered three classrooms, the maintenance building, and the library.

Stolen were different brands of laptops, hard drives, netbooks, power drills, water blaster, and routers. The items were purchased using CNMI and federal funds.

Muna said that two days later, on Dec. 23, he and another detective met at WSR with a woman who provided information about the burglary and also disclosed that her son’s stolen bicycle was seen at Leon Guerrero’s house.

Muna said that later that same day, they saw a 15-year-old boy, who was named by the tipster as one of the suspects in the burglary, walking out from the gate of Leon Guerrero’s house.

Muna said they escorted the 15-year-old boy to the Commonwealth Bureau of Investigation and interviewed him in his mother’s presence.

The detective said the boy admitted that he, Sanchez, and a 14-year-old boy burglarized WSR, where they stole a water blaster, laptops, small bike and router on Dec. 20 at 8pm.

The 15-year-old boy said Leon Guerrero, also known as Jun Kabayo, instructed him to get things for him at WSR. He admitted that they brought all the stolen items from the school to Leon Guerrero’s house.

The boy stated that he followed Leon Guerrero’s instructions because he was scared that Leon Guerrero may beat him up.

Muna said on Dec. 27 they interviewed the 14-year-old suspect, who in the presence of his mother, also confessed his participation and mentioned another boy as having been with them.

The 14-year-old boy said he and the “other boy” were the first ones to burglarize WSR, where the two of them stole food from the maintenance room, after playing soccer at the school.

The 14-year-old boy said the “other boy” told Leon Guerrero

## TEENS

From Page 1

Wednesday night on the same charges.

Three male teenagers were also arrested, but the case against them was sealed because they are juveniles.

Police said Leon Guerrero, Sanchez, and the three juveniles all confessed to their participation.

Police recovered some of the stolen items at Leon Guerrero’s house, located along Emilia Avenue in Chalan Kanoa, during a search last Dec. 29.

At a hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo imposed \$20,000 cash bail each for Leon Guerrero and Sanchez.

Govendo prohibited Leon Guerrero and Sanchez from having direct or indirect contact with William S. Reyes Elementary School as part of the bail conditions.

Preliminary hearing will be on Jan. 23 at 9am.

Police detective Olympio S. Muna stated in his report that

## BOLIVAR

From Page 1

is a vital part of it,” she said.

Bolivar attended the inauguration of Inos and Torres on Monday and then met with the two the following day, along with Marine Corps Forces Pacific executive director Craig Whelden, Pacific Command Strategic Planning and Policy director Maj. Gen. Michael Dana, and Pacific Air Forces Brig. Gen. Steven Basham at the Governor’s Office conference room on Capital Hill.

At the meeting Bolivar clarified that no decision has been made on the divert airfield in case the Andersen Air Force Base in rendered inoperable due to attack or natural calamity. Saipan and Tinian is being mulled as possible location for the alternative airbase.

Meanwhile, Whelden said the Centers for Strategic & International Studies’ recent report, “Pivot 2.0: How the Administration and Congress Can Work Together to Sustain American Engagement in Asia to 2016,” just reinforces what the U.S. Department of Defense has been telling Congress all along on how important the realignment of U.S. military forces is in the Pacific.

“CSIS about two years ago was asked by Congress to make an independent study, separate from the Department of Defense, to look at the Pacific posture for the military forces and they came out with a report in the summer of 2012. They did a follow-on report just a couple of weeks ago that went public that essentially reinforced the need for a robust military presence in the Pacific. So we’re familiar with those reports and it

basically validates the same message we’ve been making to Congress about the importance of the Pacific region,” he said.

One of the recommendations of the report is the crafting of an East Asia Strategy Report that would clarify the objectives of the rebalance; fund military construction necessary to realign U.S. forces in the Pacific; and pass a nonbinding budget resolution that sets spending above the sequestration caps and lays the groundwork for increased spending in the reconciliation process.

“For its part, Congress should be prepared to fund the fairly modest costs of modernizing U.S. facilities in Guam and elsewhere in the Pacific Command’s area of responsibility. This would be an early indication to U.S. allies that Congress and administration are prepared to work together to sustain momentum in our engagement of the region,” reads a chapter titled “Defense: Explaining and Resourcing the Rebalance” in the CSIS report.

Without additional resources, U.S. leaders would be facing a choice between sustaining existing capacity and developing new capabilities, the report said.

“Military challengers in Asia are simultaneously expanding capacity and advancing capability, made possible by rapidly growing defense budgets. China, for example, has rapidly modernized its forces while also increasing the number of advanced People’s Liberation Army ships and aircraft. To keep pace with this growing challenge, the United States and its allies and partners will have to do the same,” it added.

Michael J. Green, Zack Cooper, and Mira Rapp Hooper authored that chapter of the CSIS report.

## PROJECTS

From Page 2

the magnitude of the new development here on Saipan.”

With regards to the election for the SNILD chairmanship, Sablan said he hopes Tebuteb will call it soon so they can organize the local delegation.

“I’m assuming it might be next week or the following week but I’ve read the rules and it has to be no later than the fourth Monday of January,” he said, adding that since Tebuteb was the chair of the previous SNILD, his chief rival for the post is the one responsible for calling the meeting.

Sablan said right now his energies are focused on convincing the 18 House members and the three senators from Saipan to support him as he seeks the SNILD chairmanship.

“I’m still vying for the chairmanship. I’m still trying to get my numbers. I don’t want to use the word confident but I’m hoping that majority of members will support me for this position. I’m going person to person. We have actually approached everybody to let them know about my intentions.”

In fact, Sablan said he would have a closed-door meeting with nine House members from Saipan in the leadership today to specifically talk about his candidacy. He needs a simple majority or 11 out of the 21 members of the SNILD.

Sablan also happily reported that he’s now comfortably situated at the former corner office of Rep. Edmund Vilagomez (Ind-Saipan) after the latter finally moved to his new office.

“I’m all set. I’m ready to do my fiduciary duty,” he said.



# '240-day grace period part of larger, complicated proposal'

By **MARK RABAGO**  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The proposal to have Commonwealth-only workers, or CW1 workers, be allowed to continue working for up to 240 days or eight months while their CW

permit renewal applications are being processed is part of a larger and more complicated suite of proposals that involves multiple visa categories.

This, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, who added that there is still no new

development from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service regarding the grace period proposal for CW1 workers in the Commonwealth.

"There is no specific timeline for approval, rejection, or amendment of the proposed rule

for a 240-day grace period. We check with USCIS regularly, so the agency is reminded that this grace period remains an important concern for the Northern Marianas," he said.

In fact, his office requested USCIS for a status report just

this week. He, however, said that the agency could spend as much time as it needs to, before taking any action on the proposal.

"It is important to remember that the 240-day grace period is a small part of a much larger and more complicated proposal regarding multiple visa categories and applying nationwide."

Sablan said in addition to the 240-day grace period, other proposals include the following:

- Designate the other high-skilled specialty occupation professionals from Chile and Singapore (H-1B1) and Australia (E-3) as authorized to work for the petitioning employer without separate application for work authorization;
- Extend work authorization

for an H1-B1 and E-3 with a timely filed renewal petition;

- Amend regulations describing filing procedures for extensions and change of status requests to include the H-1B1 and principal E-3; and

- Expand the current list of evidentiary criteria that can be submitted for EB-1 outstanding professors and researcher petitions.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the island's largest business organization, as well as the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter are all in support of the 240-day grace period proposal and hope that USCIS approves it sooner than later.

## Spay, neuter services on Saipan in May

By **JAYSON CAMACHO**  
jayson\_camacho@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Due to the large dog population on the island, most of which are owned but free roaming, the Humane Society International, in collaboration with Animal Balance, will be conducting spay and neuter services on Saipan in May.

According to HSI Hawaii senior state director and Pacific Islands policy coordinator Inga Gibson, this spay/neuter and zeuterin services will be done in the last two weeks of May.

The spay/neuter services will include volunteer vets from Animal Balance. Zeuterin services will also be available for male dogs only. It is a non-surgical sterilization process for male dogs.

Animal Balance is a U.S. based non-profit organization dedicated to resolving the conflicts that exist between people, wildlife, and community dogs and cats on island nations around the world.

They believe that the most ethical, logical, and effective solution to these conflicts is to gradually reduce the population of community dogs and cats through mass sterilization and to improve the physical condition of existing populations through

medical treatment and vaccination, according to their website.

A group of 10 will assist in the sterilization process.

"Owners that don't want zeuterin is fine and all the veterinary services are all safe for the dogs," Gibson said.

She said the ultimate goal is to sterilize all dogs within an estimated period of four years.

"The first one will be on May and will be on a rotating basis," she said.

They plan to charge \$25 for the spay/neuter services, regardless of weight or age, but Gibson assured, "If you can't pay we won't turn anyone away."

Gibson also said that community members who want to sponsor the spay/neuter

service that HIS will provide can visit their website at HSI.org and look for the name "Street Dogs."

"We will be working with Mayor David Apatang and we're thrilled that he has agreed to this. Because the benefits of a spay/neuter service will make the dogs live longer, healthier, won't breed,

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# Korean orchestra jams with the Manta Ray Band

By DENNIS B. CHAN  
dennis\_chan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Yeosu Gifted Youth Orchestra, in tandem with the Southern High School Manta Ray Band, filled the American Memorial Park stage last Wednesday night with music.

The orchestra featured dozens of student musicians from South Korea's city of Yeosu, and the renowned Manta Ray

Band. The Public School System and Yeosu Office of Education recently established a memorandum of understanding to establish a sisterhood relationship to promote educational and cultural exchange.

Wednesday night's performance featured a joint concert with the Yeosu Orchestra and Mantas jointly playing the compositions *Stars and Stripes Forever* and *Arirang*.

ever and *Arirang*.

Separately, the orchestra first wowed the packed crowd with compositions like *Light Cavalry Overture*, *Yesterday*, *Gabriel's Oboe*, tunes from the *Pirates of the Caribbean* movie and *Tears in Mokpo*.

The Mantas, with their conductor William Dewitt, played *Sinatra!*, *Land of Make Believe* and other pieces.

Conductors for the Yeosu orchestra were Du-Sup Park and Sung-Won Kang.

Park said in an interview that he hoped to visit Saipan again soon. He said one piece they chose was a "very famous Korean song."

"Everybody knows that piece," he said, adding that they hoped to connect with the Ko-

rean community here, as the piece would remind them of their home country.

The Korean Association of Saipan facilitated the event.

Association president Hong Kyun Kim said they decided to do this because of the sisterhood relationship between Yeosu and the CNMI.

Yeosu performers have performed in the CNMI in events in the past, he said through a translator.

He said the Yeosu musicians are comparable to adult musicians.

"They are still in elementary and junior high school but their quality and their play of music is wonderful," he said.

## Federal court OKs putting Boeing's settlement deal with CPA under seal

The federal court has granted the request of two companies to seal their settlement deal with the Commonwealth Ports Authority in connection with CPA's lawsuit against them over the alleged design and engineering defects in a Saipan International Airport project.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Kevin S.C. Chang ordered that the amended settlement agreement be placed under seal.

According to the conference's minutes filed in court on Tuesday, Chang also ordered that the settlement conference in Boeing Company's lawsuit against Leo A. Daly Company set for April 20, 2015, be moved to April 29, 2015.

Chang said the parties' confidential settlement conference statements are due on April 22, 2015.

The Chicago-based Boeing Company and the Texas-based Boeing Service Company requested the court to seal their settlement deal with CPA last week.

The two companies, through counsel Sean E. Frink, said their deal with CPA should be sealed because it contains information protected from disclosure pursuant to third-party confidentiality restrictions.

Frink said both the CPA and Boeing are bound by the confidentiality provisions of the agreement.

The lawyer said the motion is being made because Boeing will be filing a motion to allow them to file a complaint against Leo A. Daly Company, or LAD.

Frink said that Boeing's first amended complaint alleges that

LAD's design was ultimately the cause of the defects in the airport project.

Last August, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge J. Michael Seabright dismissed CPA's lawsuit against Boeing after the parties reached a settlement.

Seabright, however, ruled that Boeing's lawsuit against LAD, which is also pending before the federal court, will continue.

CPA filed the lawsuit as a result of a series of problems related to an addition built to the Saipan International Airport.

Boeing had contracted with the CPA with respect to the project. Boeing subcontracted with others, LAD, which designed and managed construction for the project. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

## Special film screening at AMP

To commemorate the legacy of the fight for civil rights, American Memorial Park will be showing the National Park Service film *Remembering Manzanar* on Wednesday, Jan. 21, at 6pm and 7pm. This 22-minute award-winning film documents the experience of some of the 110,000 Japanese-Americans who were incarcerated in camps in the United States at the outset of World War II.

During the era greatly inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King, Japanese-Americans began anew the fight to have the violations of their own civil

rights acknowledged by the U.S. government. The legal challenge began in 1944 when Fred Korematsu, arrested for evading confinement, challenged the constitutionality of Executive Order 9066, which authorized the incarceration of Japanese-Americans. He lost that case, but in 1983 his conviction was overturned. In 1988, President Reagan signed the Redress Act, which made a financial compensation to those interned. Not all in the community accepted the offer.

In 1992, the National Park Service established Manzanar National Historic Site, the location

of the first of the War Relocation Authority camps, where more than 10,000 Japanese-Americans were interned during World War II. The film to be shown in the American Memorial Park Visitor Center is a powerful testimony to the resilience to these American citizens and to their place in American history.

Please join us for this film. Special viewing opportunities for school groups may be possible for a limited time during the next two weeks. To find out more about Manzanar and the internment story, visit <http://www.nps.gov/manz/history-culture/japanese-americans-at-manzanar.htm>. (*NPS*)



A Northern Mariana Islands Social Service

### Request for Proposal For Financial Audit

Karidat Social Services is soliciting competitive sealed proposals to perform a financial and compliance audit on its records for fiscal years ending September 30, 2014, 2015, and 2016. The audit will be performed in compliance with the generally accepted auditing standards. The proposal must be submitted to Karidat's Office on Chalan Kanoa Drive or mailed to Karidat Social Services, P.O. Box 500745, Saipan, MP 96950 by January 30, 2015, 4:30 pm.

#### I. Contents of Proposal: The following information must be included in the Audit Proposal:

- |                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| A. Title Page Containing: | 5. Email address          |
| 1. RFP Subject            | 6. Name of Contact Person |
| 2. Name of the Firm       | 7. Submission Date        |
| 3. Local Address          |                           |
| 4. Telephone Number(s)    |                           |

#### II. Transmittal Letter:

A Brief statement of your understanding of the work to be performed and an affirmative statement to perform work within the time period stipulated.

State all inclusive fee for which the audit will be performed.

#### III. Firm Profile:

Provide a brief description of your firm's personnel education background and experience, number of staff, staff level (partner, manager, supervisor, etc.) and listings of clients serviced. The firm must make an affirmative statement that at least the partners are Certified Public Accountants (CPAs).

#### IV. Proposals Evaluation Criteria: The proposal will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria.

- A. Responsiveness of the proposal in clearly stating understanding of the work to be performed.
  1. Audit coverage
  2. Overall estimates as well as the time estimates for each major section of the work to be performed.
- B. Qualifications and experience of the firm.
  1. Size and structure of the firm
  2. Ability to maintain continuity of project
  3. Experience of the firm in auditing Federal Financial Assistance programs and Non-Profit Organizations
- C. Qualification and experience of staff to be assigned: education, position in the firm, number of years, and types of experience will be considered.
  1. Qualifications of the audit team
  2. Supervision to be exercised over the firm's audit team
- D. Audit Fee

#### V. Audit Administration Matters:

- A. Karidat staff will prepare schedule as required by the Auditor.
- B. Audit Planning Meetings, interim conferences and exit conference may be attended by the following officials.
  1. Karidat's Board of Directors, the Executive Director, Accountants, and the Administrative Officer.
- C. Karidat will issue the Contract Award on February 16, 2015.
- D. The audit field work must be completed by April 17, 2015.
- E. The draft audit report must be completed by May 15, 2015.
- F. The Final Audit Report will be transmitted on June 01, 2015.

**Confidentiality of Audit Proposals:** All audit proposals will be reviewed in a confidential manner. Proposals must be labeled "CONFIDENTIAL" and transmitted to the Executive Director, Karidat Social Services, P. O. Box 500745, Saipan, MP 96950. It may also be hand delivered to Karidat Office located on Chalan Kanoa Drive.

Sincerely,  
/s/ Angie V. De Leon Guerrero  
Executive Director

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## 60 prospective jurors for trial of Dynasty's owner

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The federal court ordered the clerk of court or her deputy clerks yesterday to randomly

select 60 prospective jurors for next month's trial in the criminal case filed against the owner of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino. U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V.

Manglona said there are 98 prospective jurors available in the jury pool.

The jury trial is scheduled to start on Feb. 9, 2015, at 8am. The U.S. government filed in

November 2014 a second superseding indictment that contains 158 criminal charges against Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investment Ltd.

The charges are one count of

conspiracy to cause a financial institution to fail to file a currency transaction report or CTR, 155 counts of failure to file a CTR, one count of failure to file a suspicious activity report, and one count of failure to maintain an effective anti-money laundering program. The indictment also has a notice of forfeiture.

The initial indictment had charged HKE and then-VIP services manager George Que and then-casino manager Tim Blyth with only 10 charges. Que and Blyth had entered into a settlement deal with the U.S. government in exchange for the dismissal of the criminal charges against them.

HKE recently filed a motion to dismiss the 155 counts of failure to file CTRs, arguing that the U.S. government admits that there was no criminal offense.

HKE counsel Bruce Berline asserted, among other things,

that the 155 counts do not only charge a failure to file CTRs, the counts include charges for the violation of incomplete preparation of the CTRs, which is not a criminal offense.

HKE recently hired former federal prosecutor Patrick J. Smith from global law firm DPL Piper as Berline's co-counsel in the case.

According to the indictment, HKE allowed gamblers at Tinian Dynasty to conduct transactions involving more than \$10,000 without filing CTRs with the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network from September 2009 to April 25, 2013.

Tinian Dynasty allegedly failed to file about 3,640 CTRs for cash transactions over \$10,000 as required by law. The total dollar amount of reportable currency transactions that were not filed is about \$1.38 million.

## Apatang sets out several priorities

By **JAYSON CAMACHO**  
jayson\_camacho@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Newly sworn-in Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang has outlined several priorities for his office on what they would focus on during his term.

In an interview on his first day in office, Apatang said he already has several priorities for what the Mayor's Office would do for the betterment of the community.

Apatang said that met with the community service workers and came up with the idea of splitting them into two groups—one for the south side of the island and the other for the north. The Mayor's Office has about 23 employees that perform community services.

Another thing on Apatang's list is to get their old grader fixed and procure more heavy equipment so they could start fixing secondary roads.

"First, we will start with just maintenance of the roads for Kagman 3 and then we will move on to other secondary roads so that it could stay maintained because the heavy equipment is needed, so that's our focus," Apatang said.

The Mayor's Office will be receiving new heavy equipment this month and in February that

includes a dump truck and two backhoes. They just procured a second bucket truck last year.

Apatang also plans on working closely with the Humane Society International for the dog control program.

"We met with HSI already and they gave us their survey and we went over it so we will be working with them and I am excited about this program because we need a big public education on this matter and help the community be more responsible," Apatang said.

He plans to further engage in the cultural exchange program to strengthen the bond between Japan and Saipan.

Apatang said he will also work closely with the new Legislature and the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

"Once they are organized, I will meet with the local delegation and work with them closely and find more funding for the office," he said.

Apatang also wants to work closely with the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance office and their board and the Division of Parks and Recreation.

"I will work with Parks and Recreation because both our agencies share a common goal

and that's to clean up Saipan," Apatang said.

"As for now we will focus on these and we've got enough programs to get situated, then after we can then start adding more programs," he added.

### Former mayor's recommendation

In an earlier interview, former mayor Marian DLG Tudela said she believes Apatang already knows what to do with the of-

fice due to his experience as a lawmaker in the past.

Tudela urges the new Legislature to work with Apatang for better funding.

"What is really needed most at the Mayor's Office are community workers because everything we do is for the community and when we are called to do something, sometimes we are short on our community workers and I urge the Legislature to provide that to the Mayor's Office so it can continue doing its duties and responsibilities," Tudela said.

## TO RUN AFTER STUDENTS' UNPAID ARREARS

## SHEFA to hire collection agency

By **JAYSON CAMACHO**  
jayson\_camacho@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

With just a little over \$40,000 collected—a pittance compared to the amount that needs to be collected from students who owe the program money—the Saipan Higher Education Finance Assistance board approved a motion yesterday to form a committee that will engage collection agencies that will help it collect these owed amounts.

SHEFA administrator Merissa Rasa told the SHEFA board in yesterday's meeting that so far only two students have made payment of about \$300, putting their collections as of January 2015 at \$46,860.

Decembers showed a total of just \$46,633 collected.

SHEFA board member Joe Mafnas asked on how the collections were with those who have already graduated and were under their program and if they have reported or not.

Rasa said that there were about 800 to 900 letters that

were sent, out of 2,000 students.

"It is really difficult to track those students because there is a problem with the addresses, with the current ones being from 2004," she said.

Rasa considered creating a student ID number system to identify students without revealing their names. This will also include the students' statuses as well.

Mafnas noted that under SHEFA policy, students receiving financial assistance are required to report to SHEFA on updates about their current information.

SHEFA board chair Josephine Sablan considered doing a request for proposal under the Office of Procurement and Supply to find collecting agencies and see their scope of work on how they would go about collecting payments from students.

"This is critical because there are a lot of students who are just not doing what they need to do so we have to come up with some collection agency soon so we could start collecting from them," Mafnas said.

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# Bordallo is ceremonially sworn in



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood administers the oath of office for Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo. She is joined by her sister-in-law, Josephine Coad.

**HAGÁTÑA, Guam**—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo was ceremonially sworn in yesterday by U.S. District Court of Guam Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood. The ceremony was hosted by the U.S. District Court at Latte

of Freedom-Hall of Governors at the Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex in Adelup. Bordallo was joined by family, friends and many of the island's dignitaries.

Bordallo was officially sworn in for her seventh term

as Guam's delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives on Jan. 6, 2015, in Washington, D.C., by Speaker John Boehner.

"I want to begin by expressing my deep appreciation and gratitude to the people of Guam for continuing to place



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo is pictured with Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood and Judge Joaquin V.E. Manibusan, Jr. after her ceremonial swearing in.

their trust in me to represent our island in the United States Congress," Bordallo said. "Together, as a community, we have achieved much for our island over the last 12 years. There is still much work to be done, and I am committed

to building on the progress we have made to continue to improve the quality of life on Guam. I am humbled by this opportunity and thank Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood and the District Court of Guam for hosting the event. I

look forward to the new challenges of the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress and I remain committed to working with Gov. Calvo, Speaker Won Pat, members of the Guam Legislature, and all of Guam's leaders on issues important to our community." (PR)

## WHAT'S COOKING?

# All things grilled at DJ's Grill

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The island's obsession for barbecue or anything grilled is what prompted Donnie Militante to set up DJ's Grill last month along Beach Road in Chalan Kanoa.

Militante, who is the comptroller of the Commonwealth Development Authority, said they opened the location last Dec. 15 after some delays because of the late-arriving griller.

"I chose this line of business because aside from my passion in accounting, my other passion is hotel and restaurant operations. I decided to develop the concept of roasting and barbecue because I noticed the love of people here on island for roasting and barbecue. Every occasion or just a family gathering will not be complete without the barbecue as part of the menu. The other reason I chose this concept is to provide affordable quality food to working individuals or families that don't have much time anymore to cook after work," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

While DJ's Grill specializes in roast chicken and grilled pork belly or *liempo*, Militante said they also sell barbecue and pork blood stew or *dinuguan*. The last two are available as

early as 10am for those taking an early lunch.

Militante said he developed a passion for food—especially in the field of hotel and fine dining—while working in the Philippines. "I passed the CPA licensure exam, I worked at SGV [Sycip, Gorres & Velayo] as a staff auditor, but I did not stay that long as an auditor because I felt that it's a very lonely job and not well compensated. Imagine, you get busy especially during the yearend and most of the time you will miss celebrating Christmas or New Year with your family. I experienced one time assisting the yearend inventory of McDonald's on Dec. 31. Everyone was celebrating the New Year countdown and you're inside the walk-in freezer counting burger patties," he said.

After his stint with SGV, Militante moved to Bistro Holdings (franchise holder of TGI Fridays, Italiannis, and Outback Steakhouse) and part of his new job was to compute the monthly food and beverage cost analysis.

"It was during this time that my passion for fine dining started to develop."

What followed were stints at various fine dining restaurant groups in Metro Manila. He then found himself working as an accountant at Mariana Resort & Spa and years later moved to CDA. Armed with his

experience in accounting and F&B, Militante hopes DJ's Grill will tickle enough palates in the community to give it staying power.

"So far we received a very good reception and feedback from our customers and this just give us more inspiration to raise the standard of our food and service," he said.

Aside from whole roast chicken and *liempo*, DJ's Grill also offers different set menus for \$5.50. One set menu includes 1/4 roast chicken, pork barbecue, macaroni salad, *atsara* or coco, and rice, while another is made up of grilled pork belly, pork barbecue, macaroni salad, *atsara* or coco, and ice.

DJ's Grill also accepts short orders for siomai, empanada (pork, chicken, and beef), lechon kawali, crispy pata, and dinuguan. "We also accept whole tray and half tray orders for birthday, business meetings, family gatherings, or for any type of occasions," he said.

Among the whole tray and half tray orders DJ's Grill can whip up include pancit (bihon, canton, or mixed), siomai, beef caldereta, dinuguan, beef broccoli, lumpia shanghai, among others.

DJ's Grill will also soon come out with an ala carte menu that includes bulalo, beef nilaga, sisig, stuffed grilled squid, fried tilapia, and fish fillet, according to Militante.

DJ's Grill is located across



Town House Department Store or next to Diamond Auto Parts along Beach Road in Chalan

Kanoa, a stone's throw away from the Mt. Carmel Cathedral. It is open from 8am to 9pm

Monday-Friday and 2pm to 9pm on Saturday and Sunday. For orders, call 234-4745.



# San Jose Church to hold Mass to mark papal visit

In an effort to be a part of the papal visit in the Philippines, a Mass will be celebrated on Jan. 18, 2015, at the San Jose Parish Church on Saipan, at 6pm, said Dr. Celia Lamkin, chairperson of the U.S. Pinoy for Good Governance Marianas chapter and Global Filipino Diaspora Marianas for CNMI and Guam.

"Since we cannot be physically present to welcome and see the Pope personally when he visits our beloved country, the Philippines, on Jan. 15-19, 2015, we can be one with him and our *kababayans* [compatriots] by setting our minds and hearts in communion with our dear Pope Francis, the messen-

ger of peace, love, and the apostle of the poor and by participating in the celebration of the Eucharist this Jan. 18, 2015. This is a simultaneous celebration at his Concluding Mass at Quirino Grandstand in Rizal (Luneta) Park

this coming Sunday," said Rev. Fr. Rey Rosal, parish priest of San Jose Church, the one who will celebrate the Mass.

"I spearheaded this initiative in collaboration with Rev. Fr. Rey Rosal so that Filipinos on Saipan and the rest of the CNMI can participate during the visit of His Holiness Pope Francis in



Lamkin

the Philippines despite our physical absence in our homeland. This is another event for all the Filipinos to unite, help, and support one another, show love, compassion, and mercy to *kababayans* regardless of religious

affiliations, ethnicity, citizenship, beliefs and backgrounds," said Lamkin.

The theme of the papal visit to the Philippines is "Mercy and Compassion."

"Our compassionate shepherd comes to show his deep concern for our people who have gone through devastating calamities,

especially in the Vi-sayas area. He comes to confirm us in our faith as we face the challenges of witnessing to the Joy of the Gospel in the midst of our trials. When the Pope comes, he will bring with him the

message of the mercy and compassion of God. May he see in us a people touched by the mercy of God, living out the compassion of God, a people truly rich in mercy and compassion and grateful to those who have shown mercy to us especially



Rosal

after various calamities hit our country," added Rosal.

Jorge Mario Bergoglio, the real name of Pope Francis, was born on Dec. 17, 1936, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. On March 13, 2013, he became the successor of Pope Benedict XVI.

His Holiness Pope Francis is known for his concern for the poor, humility, and his commitment in closing the gaps and building bridges between people of all backgrounds, beliefs, and faith. By spreading the sim-

ple messages of God's boundless love and mercy, he has captured the attention of the world.

"To all Filipinos here on Saipan, the most distinctive way to prepare spiritually for the coming pastoral visit of Pope Francis is for us to become a people rich in mercy. Let us make mercy our national identity. Trust in God's mercy is part and parcel of our traditional Filipino Christian culture. Let us make the practice of mercy our gift to the Pope and be one with our *kababayans* as they welcome Pope Francis in the Philippines," said Rosal. "Let us pray for his safety and security as he visits our country."

All members of the CNMI community are invited to attend. (PR)

## Pillar of Cursillo Movement passes away

The Cursillo Movement is saddened by the passing of Sister Lucinda Roberto Sablan on Jan. 9, 2015.

Before the establishment of the Cursillo in the CNMI, a group of three to four men and women had to go to Guam Cursillo for a three-day weekend. Finally, in early 1993 the Guam Cursillo Movement, with the acknowledgment of Bishop Tomas A. Camacho, began planning for the first Women's Weekend, which took place on July 3-5, 1993. Sablan was one of the 25 women cursillistas that went through the first cursillo weekend.

Lucinda took her 1st Week-

end devotedly that she became known as Lucinda the First of everything the Cursillo needed. She not only shared her materials and religious statues but she turned their Kobler-ville residence into a Cursillo House for the 2nd Women's Weekend. She was instrumental in the success of the first Men's Weekend in 1994 where she sponsored her husband, and subsequently weekends later, her son, daughter, two brothers and a sister and brother-in-law. Lucinda never failed to provide the weekend warriors with inspirational direction and laughter and, most of all, the local delicacies that

she shared with all of us. There will be only one sister Lucinda in this lifetime.

Our prayers and heartfelt condolences to her husband, brother Cris; their son, brother Christopher; daughter Crystal and their families, her two brothers and brother-in-law, Dave, Joseph and Vicente. *De colores yan adios*, Sister Lucinda.

The CNMI Cursillos in Christianity are respectfully invited to join in prayers with the family of our beloved sister on Friday, Jan. 16, 2015, 7pm at Mt. Carmel Church. Please bring a small candle. For more information, contact Pai Camacho at 287 1870. (PR)



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**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
**Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality**  
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www.deq.gov.mp and www.crm.gov.mp

## NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE DCRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph DLG. Torres through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a DCRM Agency Officials Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 21, 2015, at 9:30 A.M. at the Bureau Of Environment Coastal Quality Office 2nd Floor Conference Room, Gualo Rai, Saipan

### AGENDA

#### PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- Call to Order
- Roll Call

#### PERMIT APPLICATION

- Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) - Exploratory Geo-Thermal Well**  
**CRM Permit No. SMS-2014-X-054**
  - Permit Application Summary
  - Discussion by DCRM Agencies/DCRM
  - Permit Application Status
- Capital Improvement Project (CIP) - Tinian Municipal Transfer Station**  
**CRM Permit No. TMS-2014-X-058**
  - Permit Application Summary
  - Discussion by DCRM Agencies/DCRM
  - Permit Application Status
- Honest Profit International Limited - Honest Profit Resort Hotel**  
**CRM Permit No. SMS-2014-X-066**
  - Permit Application Summary
  - Discussion by DCRM Agencies/DCRM
  - Permit Application Status

#### OTHER MATTERS

#### ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ **FRANCES A. CASTRO**  
DIRECTOR, DCRM



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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## Nigeria's suffering: No one will help a country that won't help itself

**T**he world's muted reaction to the violence in Nigeria by Boko Haram, an Islamist militia, stands in stark contrast to the mass public marches prompted by last week's "Charlie Hebdo" and kosher market killings in Paris.

Msgr. Ignatius Kaigama, a Catholic archbishop in Nigeria, suggested that because the victims of Boko Haram were Africans, the rest of the world didn't care enough to respond. His point may be worth pondering, but the matter is more complicated than the racism he is implying.

Boko Haram's ire is directed at the governments of Nigeria and its neighbors Cameroon, Chad and Niger. It has kidnapped hundreds of schoolgirls and killed perhaps thousands. On Tuesday more than 140 Boko Haram fighters were killed in clashes with Cameroonian troops.

Most puzzling lately is the relative silence of Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan on Boko Haram's horrible crimes. One reason is that he is up for re-election on Feb. 14. He is a Christian from the south of Nigeria and, although in principle the presidency would rotate next to a Muslim from the north, he is campaigning hard for a new term.

The inability of Nigeria's corrupt armed forces to bring Boko Haram under control is a failure of Mr. Jonathan's government and a reason to vote against him. At the same time, he probably does not want to incur the wrath of his troops, either by citing their ineptness or ordering them into more severe conflict with the formidable militia. He certainly is familiar with Nigeria's history of military coups.

The world, including the United States, is deterred from riding to Nigeria's rescue by its troops' record of corruption, their poor performance on the battlefield and by the government's refusal to deal aggressively with Boko Haram. The result, tragically, is continued carnage among the helpless people of the region.

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## Changbaishan

**I**live in a gated community built by Jardines of HK. The design looks like it was done even before the Shenyang Aerospace U, Liaoning U and the Normal School a subway stop toward town joined five universities that moved into the edge of the city neighborhood from their downtown campuses. Their 3D models of the schools do not visually represent existing structures.

The landscape of the first phase in a four-phase development scheme reflects our current housing. The rest are still waiting for the scrape of a bulldozer! The current main office of Hui Land Development is smartly staffed. I taught them English every Saturday on their own time, and we were doing fine until the end of December when the head guy announced that he just resigned. I thought he was just moving on as at the main office tasks did not look like it held an energetic young man's enthusiasm for long. It now appears that the business was going down and he was strategically let go. It is even rumored that Jardine might "abandon" the project.

The following week, one of the consistent six students in the class told me that there were only two left in her department. The rest were "fired," a term I thought she used due to her limited English. It turns out she was on the money. The gate guards too had been decimated three days after Christmas. I thought that was cruel. I found out they were being kind in giving them a month-and-a-half headway before the critical lunar new year, the Chinese holiday that matters, *Chun Jie*, middle of February.

With the current economy in China underdoing radical alteration, it appears that the dreaded construction bubble is bursting; the laborers at a Daoyi corner in the new suburban city of New Shenbei, with tools and vehicles ready to deploy at the first pound of a hammer, have no takers! Signs recruiting labor ask for workers not older than 45. Ouch!

My residence is by the new Puhe River with a designated Metro Station at a new urban center that now fancies high-rises, though unsure of occupancy. The river itself has fishers at the moment carving holes on the ice. When the weather was still warm, I remember the number of folks lined up by the bank fishing. I said that if I was a fish, I would not swim at the river, and if I fished, I would not eat what I caught. But these are desperate times.

Not for everyone, though. A couple came by after hearing of a foreigner who might continue teaching their 5-year-old daughter English (she has a brother not yet 2). A nouveau riche, a hydro-electric engineer from Harbin's MIT-like school, he has the gait of a go-getter and he bought a four-story villa for his coop. (I call it a "townhouse", but too drab for the uppity Anglo developers!)

He extended an invitation for tea, to which I demurred until the summer, clear of the pedagogical angle on the daughter. It was just

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

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as well. He inquired about Filipina house workers as his neighbor has three brown skinned maids-in-China, competent workers from the Philippines via Hong Kong, highly desired not only for the quality of their work but also the status they provide, like having a live English butler!

He touched a raw nerve. In fact, I am not remiss to an economic venture but not on nanny-gate, remembering my elitist response when OED included *Filipina* as another word for "nanny" in England, perfectly acceptable, as English butler is common to the Anglo mind but grates on the Pinoy heart that decried the fiat of our school teachers migrating elsewhere as housemaids! Not the engineer's fault by any means; I am just an oversensitive Pinoy!

I will offer three oral English learning trips to Saipan during the winter (warm temperature, the big draw), and three tour trips to Dong Bei to visit Shenyang's forerunners to Beijing's Forbidden City from the Manchus that became China's last imperial house, the Qing Dynasty. Two trips in the winter include a dash to ice and snow, and a summer trek up Changbaishan trail and its elevated lake at the border of China and *Chiao Tian* (North Korea).

Though still in the "dreaming" stage, I see Chinese language learners taking the sights at Sabalu and Gualo Rai cathedral, though wading at Mañagaha will most likely be the highlight of visits.

The reverse will be exciting. Manchuria and *Dong Bei* (north-east), the surprising stronghold of Mao Zedong's forces, sent Chiang Kai Shek to Taiwan. It is home to the semi-religious personality cult of the Falun Gong and Dafa also. Yanbian in the area is Korea-in-China where the Kogoryeo Emperor ruled when Korea was not limited to west of the Yalu River.

The Yalu's source is Changbaishan crater lake, accessible to tourist only during the summer months; winter trekkers brave the elements *sans* official consent. The mountain straddles North Korea and China, so some get lost, but that is not funny to NoKor since wanderers often sneak in new GPS systems. Prison cells are not comfortable!

Changbaishan! Got sleeping bag ready?



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Return to sender

Here's a holiday hangover that's created a buzz in business news: the flood tide of after-holiday returns to mail-order merchants. As more and more shoppers are ordering stuff via computer, they're also sending more and more of that stuff back to the merchants. This is creating challenges for merchants and consumers alike, and not everybody is a happy camper. Me, I'm not frowning, but I think it's always useful for consumers to share notes, even if they're just general observations. So here's my contribution to the pool.

Not that I'm a paragon of smart shopping. I must be a mail-order merchant's dream, because I'm usually too lazy to return anything. The whole concept of getting something in the mail, only to send it back in the mail, leaves me with a sense of futility. That's a self-defeating trait, though, and I have to get more diligent about this stuff.

In recent memory I've only had one bad online shopping experience. This came a matter of weeks ago as I was just getting our holiday shopping rolling. I ordered from a vendor that I had never heard of before, but it had a slick and impressive website and an extremely (suspiciously, I will now admit) low price.

As my cursor hovered over the "BUY" button, my wife hovered over my shoulder looking at the screen, saying "I don't trust these guys. We should just order this at Amazon."

Well, me being me, I placed the order, smugly telling my wife that the genius she married just saved \$50. Fifty dollars! It's gonna be a green Christmas this year, honey. Do you know how many

romantic Happy Meals this savings can buy?

Well, I hope you know, because I sure don't. When I arrived at the post office to pick up the package, I noticed that the box looked like it fought a losing battle with the Last Command Post. I don't think the post office damaged it, I surmise that the vendor was buying stuff that was already messed up, slapping a shipping label on the raw box, and selling it to suckers like me.

Anyway, because of the damage I refused acceptance and the box was sent back to the vendor. End of story, right? Oh, no. The vendor wouldn't refund my money. Calls? No help. Emails? No help, either.

I disputed the charge with my credit card company. After the dispute investigation got rolling, the vendor finally coughed up the refund. Still, this was a lot of hassle that could have been, and should have been, avoided by sticking to a reputable vendor. So I placed an order with Amazon, which is what I should have done to begin with.

I'll also note the obvious and mention that having a good credit card company in your corner is always a good thing.

Here's some good advice from a postal clerk I know. She said to have a camera whenever you pick up a package. If there's any obvious damage to the package, you can document it with a photo before refusing acceptance. Although this wouldn't have changed the outcome in my particular case, I can see how it could be helpful in similar situations.

Meanwhile, no matter how good a vendor is, and no matter how careful we shoppers are, sometimes there's a quality hiccup. This

**By ED STEPHENS**

Special to the *Saipan Tribune*

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at [EdStephensJr.com](http://EdStephensJr.com).  
His column runs every Friday.



has happened only a few times to me over the course of decades, but most of those times happened to fall into the recently-concluded shopping season. Whether this is a trend, or just randomness, I know not. But I'm redoubling my resolve to order only from places that aren't going to ding me for a return.

I still heed the merits of old fashioned brick and mortar shopping. That's usually my first choice, at least when it's practical. On Saipan, I never, ever had a sour experience with a merchant. In fact, some of my favorite stuff, including computers, printers, speakers, were bought locally. Some of my wife's favorite dresses were, likewise, bought locally.

So if you ever see a lady in a nice dress who is enjoying a romantic dinner with the last of the big spenders, do feel free to say hello. Just keep your hands off our French fries, please.

## Single-legged economy

The economy is in quadruple depression—four times worse than normal recession—so do we prop it with hopeful rhetoric then sleepwalk it in grand *mañana* as we've done in recent past? The persistent fiscal crisis doesn't leave much room for any fancy footling. Stagnancy and redundancy have become thematic terms, stirring uncertainty in most quarters.

Must do something better than hopeful promises. The deepening economic crisis doesn't begin nor end with "biba". Try "biliba"! The NMI fiscal obligation over the next decade is wrapped in gloom of far more for far less. In other words, how quickly could we see major strides in growth to meet mounting obligations? Is there a realistic plan or do we continue second-guessing our foggy trip via ad hoc spouts?

A widely known economist has written a book focusing on "economic principles for prosperity." It's for politicians wishing some rudimentary understanding of the issue. "Often when people talk of prosperity, they conceptualize it in very narrow terms. For them, prosperity simply means money."

"Having money is no doubt a critical aspect of prosperity, but it is just that—one aspect. Other aspects of prosperity include a robust job market where employment is available and opportunities for advancement abound, an employment environment where upward mobility is based on hard work and on the acquisition of formal and informal education and training, and where invention is encouraged."

"In a prosperous economy, individuals are able to innovate, creating new and better products, services, and ways of doing things. By teaching economic principles, explaining the institutional prerequisites for prosperity, and shattering economic myths, politicians would be equipped with the intellectual tools they need to achieve

a more prosperous" NMI if, and only if, they read the book and understand its substance. It's still is the economy, *lai*!

**Inadequate basic infrastructure**

The one major issue geniuses upstairs must resolve is what economic planners call "infrastructure deficit" or inadequacies. Unless water, power, sewer and roads are emplaced, nothing much could move forward in building billion-dollar facilities into reality. Placing infrastructure has been and still is the established mode of building economies anywhere between Japan and Asia.

In its simplest form, it's now policy to build casino on Saipan, right? Yet the big boys ignored ascertaining that a plan is at hand that secures land for this purpose. They also failed to ensure that basic infrastructure is emplaced (up north, middle or south) to begin construction of Best Sunshine's 4,000-room integrated casino resort.

Did we have to demonstrate our forte of placing the bull before the cart time and again? The entire exercise is appallingly dizzying. I have every intention to quiz the big boys why the negligence in the non-identification of land and lack of basic infrastructure. Or have they also subscribed to perceptual "Air Bridge"? Humiliating!

**Real challenges**

I get catatonic, if not apoplectic or both, when reviewing current court-stipulated orders that include paying the settlement fund annually and other obligations. It's a given that a budget tells us what we can't afford, but it doesn't keep us from buying or spending money we don't have in the treasury. To spend beyond it instantly turns into deficit spending. Who pays for such indecision? Isn't it you and I, the taxpayers?

We all must exercise passionate advocacy how our taxes are spent

**By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the *Saipan Tribune*

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of *Saipan Tribune* and a former secretary of Department of Public Lands.



for none of us is ready to be deceived and shackled time and again by those whose grand failure brings vicious hardship against "we the people".

You see, between this fiscal year and 2024, the NMI must pay the Settlement Fund some \$11.22 billion. This doesn't include paying for some \$779 million in unfunded liability for current retirees and other urgent bills. Mirror this against current annual revenues to get an understanding of our fiscal posture for the next decade. It makes placing this issue prominently on our fiscal radar screen.

■ ■ ■

There's the absence of a set of plans addressing funds for Capital Improvement Projects or how much is available for it and specific road map to fast track their emplacement. But it's a must-have set of documents to move things forward, allowing for refinement as we move along.

We've spouted lofty plans and even spin the suspect economic rebound presented as though a set of facts. It isn't and far from it. Our pockets tell an entirely different story of conditions below I Deni. Call it reality check!

## Muslims worldwide should rally for an end to terrorism

God bless the French. Something like 1.5 million turned out in Paris and millions more elsewhere in France to say no, no, a thousand times no to the barbarian terrorists who killed the innocent in an attack at a spirited, satirical publication and still more after that. What we need is something similar worldwide by Muslims who say assassins acting as representatives of Islam are no such thing and that they condemn them and any others who suppose evil is holy.

If a massive turnout like that would someday happen, it could conceivably be salvational, not just by helping to rob themurderous of their excuses, but by preventing Muslim self-destruction. And why shouldn't it happen? We are forever being told the vast majority of Muslims are peaceful and that tradition and the Koran endorse no such cruelty. What is more, President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi of Egypt set a sterling example recently, though he sees far less Muslim innocence in general than some.

Taking the risk of some morally disabled fanatic killing him, this pious Muslim said the Islamic world is being destroyed, not by the West, but by its own actions, and that religious scholars should lead a revolution to junk unenlightened, extremist, hugely pervasive misinterpretations. Muslims, he said, should quit scaring everyone else to death, as if those in this billion-plus slice of the population are capable of slaughtering all those who believe otherwise. What is

needed, he said, is "a revolution of self, a revolution of consciousness and ethics."

So let it begin, and recognize that those Western critics who say this politician can't do the job are missing his point, as has been observed in an American Spectator article. He is asking for action by religious scholars, not by saying Islam should be abandoned but that it should be rediscovered. This is not absolutely wild-eyed, considering that as recently as this past September more than 120 Muslim scholars worldwide did something somewhat like that, saying the Islamic State was at odds with the Prophet Muhammad.

They are hardly alone, for while many Muslims do hate the West, an Associated Press story shows how many are also horrified by Muslim terrorists killing 132 Muslim schoolchildren in Pakistan, the Islamic state mercilessly wiping out Muslim families in Syria and Iraq and the Paris killers not at all parenthetically killing a Muslim police officer. It is true, too, that Muslim leaders of Turkey and Palestine attended the Parisian solidarity rally—a signal of hope.

The Western response to what happened in Paris must be to support the French in every way we can, to continue the war against terrorists, even to step it up, to more vigorously go after the Islamic State, for instance, and also to safeguard our values. That means that we do not play the coward when terrorists strike, saying, oh,

**By JAY AMBROSE**

*Tribune News Service*

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for *Tribune News Service*. Readers may email him at [speaktojay@aol.com](mailto:speaktojay@aol.com).



goodness, such satire should be outlawed, but to say freedom of speech has moral and truth-finding meaning, that in many ways, it represents what is best about us. "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it," wrote Evelyn Beatrice Hall in explaining the philosophy of Voltaire in a biography, and, however much a cliché the words have become, especially since the attacks in Paris, we should take them seriously.

Concretely, that means countries with idiotic hate-speech laws that threaten imprisonment of political leaders for their arguments should reform, even as college campuses in this country should get rid of their speech codes and that politicians in Washington and elsewhere should back off the various curbs they keep bringing up. We, too, sometimes misinterpret the most vital principles of our culture.



# The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY

Cloudy with scattered showers.  
Southeast winds 15 to 20 mph.

▲83° ▼79°

SATURDAY

Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.  
East winds 10 to 15 mph.

▲83° ▼79°

SUNDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers

▲83° ▼79°

MONDAY

Mostly sunny with isolated showers in the morning, then scattered showers in the afternoon.

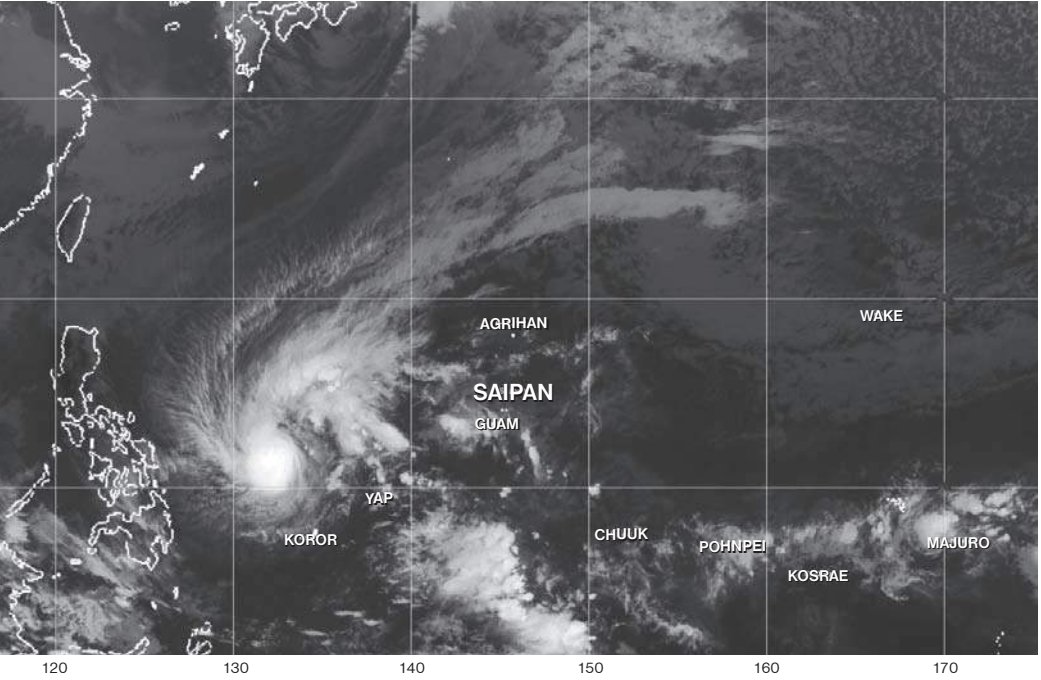
▲83° ▼79°

TUESDAY

Cloudy with scattered showers.

▲83° ▼79°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2015**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

At noon, Tropical Storm Mekkhala (01W) was centered 325 miles north of Koror near 12N134E with maximum sustained winds of 40 mph. Heavy rain and thunderstorms are found within 120 miles of the center. Farther out, numerous showers are present out to about 300 miles from the center east and southeast of Mekkhala. Scattered showers and thunderstorms are occurring within 100 miles either side of a line from 11N139E to 3N146E just east of Yap. For more information on Tropical Depression Mekkhala, refer to public advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM and bulletins from the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers across the Mariana Islands and southeast towards Chuuk within 100 miles of a line from 13N143E to 13N148E to 8N152E. A cold front extends from 19N180E to 16N173E then continues as a shear line to 13N161E. Low clouds and scattered showers are found along and up to 200 miles north of this boundary. Strong low-level convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from Pohnpei eastward to the date line within 75 miles of a line from 7N158E to 7N169E to 9N173E to 7N180E. Besides Pohnpei, this includes Kwajalein and Majuro but is north of Kosrae.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

Micronesia			
Guam And Rota	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼78
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstoms	▲84	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79

Around the Globe			
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼63
Beijing	Sunny	▲40	▼18
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼53
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼68
London	Windy	▲49	▼40
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲75	▼50
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼69
Melbourne	Sunny	▲82	▼60
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼64
New York	Sunny	▲38	▼29
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲49	▼42
Paris	Showers	▲52	▼42
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲42	▼27
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼48
Salem	Showers	▲50	▼47
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼50
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲39	▼20
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲55	▼41
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲42	▼31

## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
4:53 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
9:35 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
3:26 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
10:57 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	6:47 AM	6:07 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:08 PM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:08 PM
Monday	6:47 AM	6:09 PM
Tuesday	6:47 AM	6:10 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	2:14 AM	2:03 PM
Saturday	3:09 AM	2:55 PM
Sunday	4:07 AM	3:51 PM
Monday	5:05 AM	4:51 PM
Tuesday	6:03 AM	5:53 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 5, 2015											
DEPARTURES						ARRIVALS					
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)						GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN					
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily			UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily		
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3			UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3		
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7			UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7		
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota			UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7		
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5			UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota		
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4			UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5		
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5			UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5		
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7			UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7		
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5			UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5		
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)						GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)					
UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7			UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4		
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)						ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN					
UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7			UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4		
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)						PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN					
DL287	6:05am	1:10am+1	2, 6 via NRT			DL298	4:35am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT		
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)						NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN					
DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6			DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily		
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily			DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7		
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)						SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN					
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1			OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily		
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7			7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily		
OZ6063	3:20am	7:10am	3, 4, 6, 7			OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7		
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily			OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6		
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily			OZ6053	8:50pm	2:10am+1	2, 3, 5, 6		
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)						BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN					
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7			OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6		
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)						SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN					
3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7			3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7		
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)						BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN					
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 4, 5, 7			MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7		
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)						GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN					
3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6			3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5		
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)						MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN					
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN			OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN		
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1,5 via GUM		
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM			PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM			PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM		
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM			DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT		
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM			UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM		
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM			UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM		
DL287/275	6:05am	9:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT			OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM			OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM			UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM		
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM			UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM			UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM		
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM			UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota		
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM			UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM		
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM			UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM		
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM			UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM			UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM		
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM			UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM		
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN			UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota		
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)						HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN					
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN			OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN		
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN			OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN		
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM			OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM			OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM			UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM		
UA5039/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	6 via Rota-GUM			UA180/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM		
UA5078/179	3:10pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM			UA180/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM		
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN			UA180/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota		
						UA180/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM		
						UA180/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM		
						UA180/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM		



# Tinian WIA participants obtain USCG OUPV license



Johllie L., left, and Michael L. Barcinas.



Sylvestre H. Palacios.



Juan C. Cepeda

The US Coast Guard recently issued Workforce Investment Agency participants from Tinian their five-year Merchant Mariner Credential to operate uninspected passenger vessels as defined in 46 U.S.C. 2101 (42)(B) upon near coastal water not more than 100 miles offshore.

WIA participants were involved in a 56-hour rigorous course with an approved service provider and are required to sit for the examination.

Upon passing, participants are allowed a year from completing the course to satisfy other USCG application requirements for licensure.



Anthony P. Borja, left, and Ray Dela Cruz.

DOL-WIA Division and the entire Department of Labor are very proud of their accomplishments and congratulate its participants as they move forward

with their careers.

This is only one of many career training programs under the DOL-Workforce Investment Agency Division. For more information

on this program or any others, visit Bldg. 1215 on Capital Hill, call

664-1708/1757/1705/1704, or go online at [www.wia.gov.mp](http://www.wia.gov.mp). (PR)

## Transpac group 'Walks for the Red'

The American Red Cross is pleased to announce that the Transpac group of companies will again be a premier sponsor for this year's Walkathon.

"We are grateful that the Coke-Subway-Foremost-Scoops-Glimpses group of companies will be supporting our 'Walk for the Red' event," said Tayna Belyeu-Camacho, board chair of the NMI Chapter. "Transpac has a long history of helping our community, particularly with events focused on fitness."

This year's walkathon will take place on Saipan, Rota, and

Tinian on Saturday, March 21. In addition to the 10K course, there will be 5K and Headstart 2K courses for the younger children. A \$20 donation to the Red Cross provides entry to the walk, an event T-shirt, prizes and refreshments from Coca-Cola, Subway and Foremost.

The Red Cross walkathon is the largest walking event in Micronesia with more than 3,000 participants. Prizes will be given out to schools with the most number of walkers and to those individuals and schools that raise the most funds.

For more information about

the 29th annual Walkathon or how to volunteer, call the NMI Chapter at 234-3459. (ARC)

JENNIFER DOCKTER  
LAW OFFICE OF F. MATTHEW SMITH, LLC  
2nd Floor, MIC Building, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero  
San Jose Village  
P.O. Box 501127  
Saipan, MP 96950-1127  
Telephone Nos.: (670) 234-7455 / 7427  
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorney for Petitioner.

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  ALPHONSUS GERALD STANLEY, Deceased.	Civil Action No. 14-0255  NOTICE OF HEARING and NOTICE TO CREDITORS  Date: February 10, 2015 Time: 1:30 p.m. Honorable Judge David A. Wiseman
--	---

#### TO: THE HEIRS, GENERAL PUBLIC AND CREDITORS OF THE DECEDENTS OR OF THEIR ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that the Petitioner, Janice C. Stanley, has filed a Petition For Letters of Administration in the above-entitled Estate proceeding pursuant to Rule NMIR, of Prob. P. 15.

A hearing on the petition will be conducted by the Court on **February 10, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.** in Courtroom 223, Superior Court. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

Pursuant to NMI R. of Prob. P. 21, notice is hereby given to all creditors of the Decedent or his Estate that they must file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of the publication of this notice. A copy of the claim of any creditor should be sent to Jennifer Dockter at the above indicated address.

Reference is hereby made to the petition for further particulars.  
SO NOTICED this 31st day of December 2014.

/s/ JENNIFER DOCKTER (F0465)  
Attorney for Petitioner

## Small craft advisory still up

### »Wind, high surf advisories are cancelled

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the surf has subsided to below advisory criteria as well as wind advisory. The small craft advisory still in effect until this noon, Friday.

The small craft advisory is now in effect until noon today. The high surf and wind advisories are now both cancelled.

Northeast winds around 25

knots locally to 30 knots and combined seas of 10 to 12 feet will produce hazardous conditions for operators of small craft through today. Winds and seas will be on a gradual decline today but will remain hazardous.

Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid boating in these conditions. If travel by boat is necessary, exercise caution especially near reef lines and when entering or leaving harbors and inlets. (HSEM)

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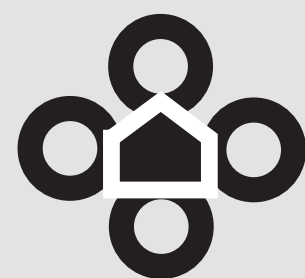
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Contact Tony Muna

(Cell No. 888-9290 Email Address: [plebechamp80@gmail.com](mailto:plebechamp80@gmail.com))

or Ben Sablan (Email Address: [ben.sablan1994@gmail.com](mailto:ben.sablan1994@gmail.com))

or Call 234-2585/235-9020



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# NMC, UOG students do ecology research during holiday break



Northern Marianas College and University of Guam students worked on ecological projects over the holiday break.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Six University of Guam graduate and undergraduate students have been working alongside eight Northern Marianas College students during a three-week island ecology course on Saipan and Guam during the holiday break.

The course is funded

through a grant awarded to Rice University and the University of Guam by the National Science Foundation.

Instructors/co-coordinators from the collaborating institutions who have been guiding the students through ecology research activities

include Dr. Ross Miller from the University of Guam, Dr. Haldre Rogers from Rice University, Evan Fricke from the University of Washington, and Dr. Alfredo De Torres from the Northern Marianas College.

The two other assisting

staff include Lee Roy Sablan and Edward Dela Cruz, former NMC students who are now studying at the University of Guam.

The participants of the program are learning about the natural history of the islands, economics and bio-conserva-

tion of ecosystems, and “predator-prey” invasive species. They conducted ecological research projects in the Mariana Islands and also studied “predator-prey” impact studies of bird loss by brown tree snakes in Guam and on Saipan.

The course is part of the Ecology of Bird Loss project. Dr. Haldre Rogers, project director, offers the course to students who want fieldwork and research experience.

The course initially began Dec. 28, 2014, through Jan. 5, 2015, at the NMC and continued at UOG on Jan. 6-15, 2015. Students conducted a presentation of their research yesterday at UOG. The titles for their projects included: “Hermit crab abundance and seed removal rates”; “Spi-

der web characteristics”; “Pollinator abundance on non-native plants”; “Skink anti-predator behavioral responses”; and, “Understory insect abundance.”

The students have also been participating in career development workshops that focus on writing resumes and cover letters for jobs in the field of natural resource management. Rogers hopes the participants will be encouraged to take up leadership positions in the science communities in Guam and the CNMI.

In the past, the same course provided various ecological research project opportunities for the students, including analyzing the behavior of birds around snakes in Guam and on Saipan. *(NMC)*

## 5 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged five Saipan beaches and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Affected sites are the DPW Channel Bridge, Outer Cove Marina, Kanoa Resort, Community School Beach, and the Sugar Dock.

Samples collected from these locations contained

excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan’s recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. *(DEQ)*



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
**Judiciary Administrative Office**  
Guma’ Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice  
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950 • T: (670) 236-9715 • F: (670) 236-9702



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

### DEPUTY MARSHAL

On the island of SAIPAN

**DUTIES:** The successful candidate will work under the general supervision of the Director of Law Enforcement and Security in the Marshal Service Division on Saipan which involves the enforcement and execution of judicial orders and assigned law enforcement duties. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Performs enforcement and execution of court orders and service documents such as jury summons;
- Performs court security duties required for judicial proceedings, protection of justices, judges, court staff, clients, jurors, witnesses, and judicial facilities; assists in the operation of the court’s security control monitoring systems;
- Conducts inspection and screening of all persons entering the courthouse and prohibits the entrance onto the court’s premises of any items that are restricted or prohibited; provides the public with direction and information on all public services locations within the courthouse;
- Prepares written reports of service and non-service documents, incidents, and other reports as required;
- Performs prisoner handling while awaiting court hearings; escorts prisoners to courtrooms and to holding cells as directed;
- Has knowledge of and follows courtroom directives;
- Completes annually all required training including firearms; complies to all procedures relative to the proper use, maintenance, and security of government issued firearms; and
- Performs other duties on the courthouse premises as assigned.

**QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:** Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent, a minimum of two (2) years experience in law enforcement and/or one year college level education in criminal justice or related field of study. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment.

**COMPENSATION AND TENURE:** This is an ungraded position appointed and served at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. Salary will be \$16,652 annually.

**INTERESTED PERSONS** may obtain application forms at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Michelle V. Guerrero  
Human Resource/Administrative Officer  
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice  
P.O. Box 502165  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel. (670)236-9818  
Fax. (670) 236-9702  
[michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp](mailto:michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp)

This job announcement will remain open until filled. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at <http://www.justice.gov.mp>.

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## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

### PRO SE CLIENT SERVICE ASSISTANT

On the island of SAIPAN

**DUTIES:** The successful candidate will work under the general supervision of the Presiding Judge of the Commonwealth Superior Court and direct supervision of the Manager of the Family Court or his/her designee. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Assist Pro Se clients when they come to the Family Court Division seeking assistance in filing their case;
- Assist in the development and enhancement of the Family Court Pro Se Court Services program for family violence cases;
- Maintain and promote positive workflow with Victim Advocates and all other agencies involved in the processing and distribution of family protection cases / TRO (FP/TRO);
- Participate in court and special hearings for all family protection cases;
- Assist the courtroom clerks with docketing and scheduling of hearings for FP/TRO and criminal domestic violence cases;
- Assist in the distribution of orders, pleadings and other documents in FP/TRO and criminal domestic violence cases;
- Coordinate and schedule home assessments as well as process referral orders for those court clients referred to social mental health services;
- Conduct interviews of court clients and their families; analyze the information, identify possible problem areas, make recommendations concerning the case, and make referrals to other social service agencies;
- Input case information into the Justware Case Management System and the Lexis Nexus E-filing system;
- Attend the monthly Family Violence Task Force meetings;
- Assist in planning and coordination of domestic violence training conferences;
- Maintain and monitor the Victims of Crime Act formula grant program’s goals and objectives which will include the preparation of quarterly reports, compilation of case statistics and processing of purchase requisitions; and;
- Adhere to and comply with all promulgated policies, standards and codes of ethical conduct;
- Perform other related duties as assigned.

**QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:** The Client Service Coordinator should have High School Diploma or equivalent from an accredited college with an Associate of Arts (AA) degree in social work, criminal justice, or related service, plus one (1) year of experience in clerical, data collection, or similar field. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment.

**COMPENSATION AND TENURE:** This position is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. Salary will be \$18,000 annually.

**INTERESTED PERSONS** may obtain application forms at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

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THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.



# UOG names Wiegand vice president

The University of Guam announced yesterday the hiring of Randall Wiegand as its vice president of Administration and Finance.

Wiegand was selected after

an extensive search process that included candidates from Guam and off-island. Wiegand brings many years of executive leadership experience, most recently serving as the chief

financial officer of the Guam Power Authority.

"Randy Wiegand has a record of success as the chief financial officer of GPA," said UOG president Dr. Robert Underwood. "His

leadership abilities are matched by an impressive array of qualifications as a financial manager and leader. We look forward to his service."

Wiegand has worked exten-

sively in finance and administration in both the public and private sectors. Before joining GPA as chief financial officer in 2003, he worked for three years as the audit manager at the Guam Office of the



Wiegand

Public Auditor. He also served as underwriting manager for Pacificare Asia Pacific, and spent nearly five years as comptroller for GPA and five years as audit supervisor for Deloitte and Touch.

Wiegand holds cre-

## WIA participant accepted to Hawaii Job Corps Center

KC Lynn T. Barcinas, a resident of the island of Rota, was selected to officially enter the Hawaii Job Corps Center on Jan. 13, 2015, to pursue career technical training at the Waimanalo Campus. In an interview with a Department of Labor-Workforce Investment Agency case manager, Barcinas provided the following statements:

"Where I stand is a tough place and, without sacrifice and determination, where will

I stand in this world? Probably nowhere. It's hard knowing I have to leave everything behind but that is life and a choice I have to make if I want a good life. Thanks to Job Corp, they gave me a chance to experience an opportunity of a lifetime. I graduated high school early, not knowing what I was going to do next so as of now my goal is to experience the world beyond me and hopefully make a good life out of it.

"I want to thank the Lord for guiding me all this way, my family for supporting me, the people who helped me get into the Job Corps, and to my 1-year-old daughter who is my sacrifice and determination to make a better living and hopefully give her the chance to experience youth the way I wished I had. I'm doing this for us."

On behalf of the entire CNMI Department of Labor,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

KC Lynn T. Barcinas, a resident of the island of Rota, has been selected to officially enter the Hawaii Job Corps Center.

we congratulate KC Lynn and wish her all the best in her endeavor. In addition, we would like to thank the staff of the Rota Liaison Office for their assistance in providing lodging and transportation for Barcinas while she transits on to her connecting flights.

The CNMI DOL-Workforce Investment Agency Division, under an MOU with the Hawaii Job Corps Program, provides Outreach and Admission services for the program. Interested individuals may contact our office at 664-1708/1757/1705/1704 or visit the website at [www.wia.gov.mp](http://www.wia.gov.mp) (PR)

credentials as a certified public accountant, a certified government financial manager and a certified fraud examiner. Wiegand received his bachelor of arts in Business Finance from Seattle Pacific University and his master of Business Administration from the University of Washington.

Outgoing vice president David O'Brien will return to the faculty after over a decade of stellar service. "Mr. O'Brien brought the university financial stability and was a vital part of the executive team during the university's recovery from accreditation issues and its greatest period of growth," said Underwood. (UOG)

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### NMPASI closed on Jan. 30

The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. would like to let the public know that our office will be closed on Jan. 30, 2015, from 8am to 5pm, for Staff Development. Business will resume on Feb. 2, 2015. (PR)

#### Air Force training at Farallon de Medinilla

ASAN, Guam--The U.S. Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following times:

■ Jan. 20 – 22, from 10am to 4pm and 5pm to 11:55pm

■ Jan. 23, from 7am to 2pm

The general public--especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators--are advised to stay clear from the area during the dates and

times indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. (PR)

#### Friends of the Arts presents I'm not Rappaport

This Jan. 16, 17, and 18, the Friends of the Arts will be presenting the second program of its 2015 season, I'm not Rappaport, directed by Harold Easton and produced by Susan Fishman-Tudor. The performances on Jan. 16 and 17 will start at 7pm. The Sunday, Jan. 18, program will be a matinee beginning at 3pm. All three shows will be performed at the Marianas High School's Dolphin Theatre.

Tickets will be sold at the door. The entrance fee will be \$5 for all student Thespian

members, \$8 for students up through college, \$12 for FOA members and \$15 for non-FOA members. Season tickets (for this and the next two show) are still available at \$30 for FOA members by contacting me at [fl-gibson@yahoo.com](mailto:fl-gibson@yahoo.com) or by calling 287-7476. (PR)

#### Chamber Installation Dinner on Jan. 24

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will have no general membership meeting this month. Instead it will celebrate with its Installation Dinner on Jan. 24 at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan. The Chamber will welcome its newest board members and will announce its 2014 Business Person of the Year. A silent auction will offer fabulous prizes! Tickets are \$50/person, and tables of eight persons are available. (SCC)

### BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Advance birthday shoutout to our big brother, Leon Duenas! Happy, happy 4th birthday! We hope you enjoy your special day! With lots of love, Ali, Jihan, Olivia and Liam.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 50th birthday to my honey, daddy, and *ampa*, Herman Castro! We love you very much and we hope you enjoy your day. Best wishes to you on your special day! Greetings coming out from your wife, kids, and grandkids!



**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**  
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514  
Email: [nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp](mailto:nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp) • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.mp>

**JOB VACANCY RE-ANNOUNCEMENT**  
(This ad is paid for by NMHC.)

OPENING DATE: JANUARY 9, 2015  
CLOSING DATE: JANUARY 30, 2015 TIME: 4:30 PM

SALARY AT \$50,000.00 - \$60,000.00 UNGRADED  
(Commensurate with education and experience)

**“COMPTROLLER”**

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Jocelyn C. Seman, Office Manager at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to [officemanager@nmhc.gov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhc.gov.net). NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**  
Corporate Director

## WORLD RESORT JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

**OPEN DATE:** January 7, 2015  
**CLOSE DATE:** January 21, 2015

**POSITION:** Graphic Artist  
**SALARY:** Negotiable

**Qualifications:**

High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two years experience in computer/network maintenance field required; formal education/training in IT or Design related subjects highly preferred. One (1) Graphic Artist position is currently available.

**OPEN DATE:** January 7, 2015  
**CLOSE DATE:** January 21, 2015

**POSITION:** Housekeeping Attendant & Laundry Attendant  
**SALARY:** Minimum Wage

**Qualifications:**

High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years experience in housekeeping or commercial cleaning preferred. Must have a friendly personality and willingness to provide customer service. Six (6) positions are currently available for the housekeeping attendant. Four (4) positions are currently available for the laundry attendant.

**OPEN DATE:** January 7, 2015  
**CLOSE DATE:** January 21, 2015

**POSITION:** Cook  
**SALARY:** Negotiable

**Qualifications:**

High school graduate or equivalent required. Two years of formal training/education in culinary arts required. Position requires employee to receive food handler related health examinations and clearances as condition to their continued employment. Four (4) positions are currently available.

**OPEN DATE:** January 7, 2015  
**CLOSE DATE:** January 21, 2015

**POSITION:** Server  
**SALARY:** Minimum Wage

**Qualifications:**

High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years experience in food service preferred. Position will require employee to receive food handler related health examinations and clearances as condition to their continued employment. Friendly personality, willingness to serve and a readily smiling individual highly preferred. Six (6) positions are currently available.

**OPEN DATE:** January 7, 2015  
**CLOSE DATE:** January 21, 2015

**POSITION:** Reservations Clerk  
**SALARY:** Minimum Wage

**Qualifications:**

High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years experience in hotel reservations preferred. Must have excellent people skills, willingness to provide service, friendly attitude and a ready smile. One (1) position is currently available.

**OPEN DATE:** January 7, 2015  
**CLOSE DATE:** January 21, 2015

**POSITION:** Guest Relations Officer  
**SALARY:** Minimum Wage

**Qualifications:**

High school graduate or equivalent required. Proficiency in the Korean or the Mandarin language is required. Must have excellent people skills, willingness to provide service, friendly attitude and a ready smile. Four (4) positions are currently available.

**OPEN DATE:** January 7, 2015  
**CLOSE DATE:** January 21, 2015

**POSITION:** Lifeguard & Kids College Attendant  
**SALARY:** Minimum Wage

**Qualifications:**

High school graduate or equivalent required. Obtaining a lifeguard certification will be required for continued employment for the lifeguard position. Must enjoy and be comfortable interacting with young children for the kids' college attendant. Must have a friendly and an outgoing personality. Eight (8) positions are currently available for the lifeguard position. One (1) position is currently available for the kids college attendant.

**OPEN DATE:** January 7, 2015  
**CLOSE DATE:** January 21, 2015

**POSITION:** Mechanic & Electrician  
**SALARY:** Negotiable

**Qualifications:**

High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum of two (2) years of formal mechanical experience or mechanical training is required. Two years of experience in related field strongly preferred. Two (2) positions are currently available for the mechanic position. Two (2) positions are currently available for the electrician position.

For more information, please contact the Human Resources Team at (670) 234-5900 ext. 274/266/576. Employment application forms are available at the Saipan World Resort, Security Office, located next to the Wave Jungle/Water Park. Applicants must submit the completed form and all the necessary requirements to the Security Office. Incomplete application will not be accepted by the Security Office.



# Bank of Guam saves historic Mount Carmel stage

With a \$25,000 donation, Bank of Guam recently provided much needed funds to save Mount Carmel School's historic stage.

Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, Bank of Guam President, chief executive officer, and chair of the bank's board of directors, personally visited the school earlier this week to present the check to school officials. Leon Guerrero was accompanied by other notable bank officials, including senior vice president and chief financial officer Francisco M. Atalig, board member Frances L. G. Borja, and vice president and CNMI regional manager Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane.

"Bank of Guam has always done what it could to support our community, in whatever small way that we can," Leon Guerrero shared with school officials. "We are very happy to help bring this historical landmark back for the Saipan community."

Mount Carmel School's chair, Joseph L. G. Tajeron, was likewise very happy to receive the donation on behalf of the school.

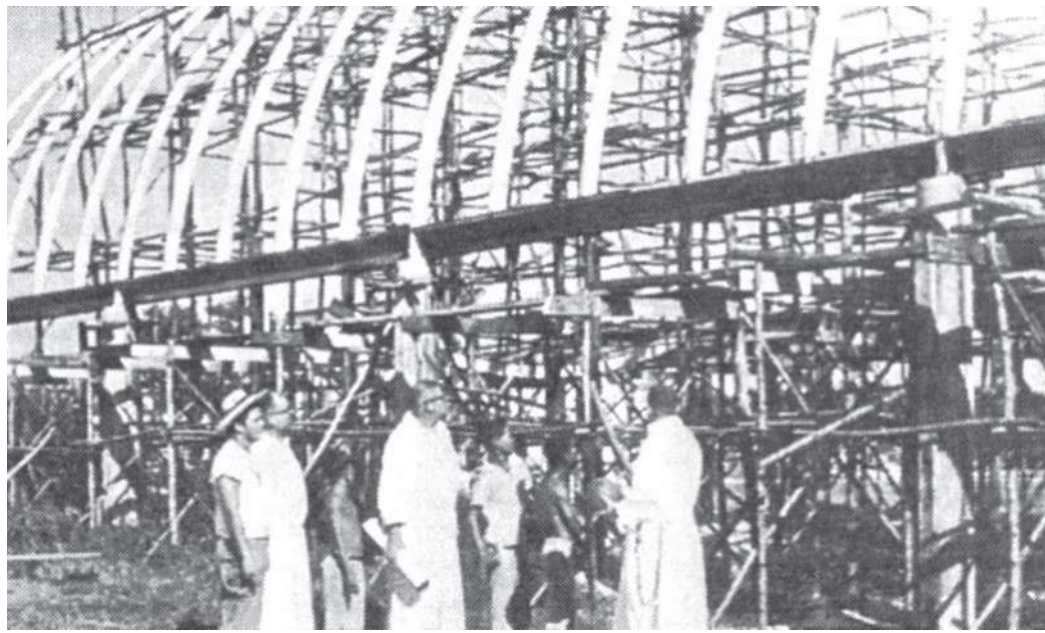
"This generous donation will

not only help rebuild the brick and mortar of our stage and solidify a historical landmark, it will also reinforce the school's proud tradition of theatrical excellence and its dedication to the arts," said Tajeron. "I humbly thank the Bank of Guam for making a pledge and then honoring its commitment."

Joining Tajeron to thank Bank of Guam were school Apostolic Administrator for the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, Fr. Ryan Jimenez, incoming school board member Mark Rabauliman, school president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, director of Institutional Development John Blanco, business manager Keiko Yamagata, vice principal for Curriculum and Instruction Bobby Baldazo, vice principal for Student Affairs Ida Bahillo, and Student Council president Maria Fe Andrea Lazaro.

## The "Save the Stage" Campaign

Since the 1950s, the school's stage and auditorium had hosted several historic events in the growth of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Throughout the 1960s, while under U.S. trusteeship



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

One of the founders of Mount Carmel School, Fr. Arnold Bendowski, second from left, oversees the construction of the school's historic auditorium and stage in the 1950s.

after World War II, the islands held important meetings with visiting United Nations officials in the auditorium. Eventually, both the CNMI Covenant and Constitution would be signed in same auditorium. The stage has also been the home of the longest continuously running performing arts program on island, the school's annual Christmas pageant.

Over the years, however, the stage fell into disrepair, forcing the stage to close in the early 2000s. Upon returning to the school as its president in 2012, Galvin Deleon Guerrero, a 1991 AlumKnight and known performing arts producer, worked with other AlumKnights to launch a "Save the Stage" campaign. The campaign was divided into five phases, the first of

which was to provide minimal repairs to at least make the stage usable for the annual Christmas pageant.

Several fundraising events followed, including an AlumKnight production of Jane Martin's *Talking With*, a Drive-In Student Film Festival, the MCS Theatre Club's production of Disney's *The Little Mermaid*, and an online fundraising drive

for AlumKnights' participation in the 2014 Tagaman and Saipan Marathon. With these fundraisers and several donations from AlumKnights, the school was able to complete phase one of the campaign, thus making the stage available for the recent 2014 Christmas Pageant.

With phase one completed, phase two remained, which is the critical phase to actually renovate the stage into a professional stage with theatrical flooring, a functional backstage area, and proper sound and lighting equipment. Bank of Guam's donation will fund the entire second phase of the campaign, which the school anticipates will be completed before the start of the next school year, 2015-2016.

Bank of Guam's Leon Guerrero challenged other local businesses to do their part. "We call on others on island to also help," she said.

The three remaining phases of the "Save the Stage" campaign will convert the current open-aired auditorium into an enclosed, air-conditioned area with a refurbished roof retrofitted with acoustic paneling for theatrical shows. (PR)



Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, Bank of Guam, president, chief executive officer, and board chair, and Joseph L. G. Tajeron, Mount Carmel School board chair, discuss the significance of the school's stage and the ongoing "Save the Stage" campaign.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bank of Guam officials present a \$25,000 "Save the Stage" contribution to Mount Carmel School officials in front of the historic stage. From left to right: John Blanco, MCS director of Institutional Development; Bobby Baldazo, MCS vice principal for Curriculum & Instruction; Keiko Yamagata, MCS business manager; Maria Fe Andrea Lazaro, MCS Student Council president; Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane, BOG vice president and CNMI regional manager; Francisco M. Atalig, BOG senior vice president and chief financial officer; Frances L. G. Borja, BOG board member; Lourdes A. Deleon Guerrero, BOG president, chief executive officer, and board chair; Joseph L. G. Tajeron, MCS board chair; Fr. Ryan Jimenez, Apostolic Administrator for the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa; Mark Rabauliman, incoming MCS board member; Galvin Deleon Guerrero, MCS president; and Ida Bahillo, MCS vice principal for Student Affairs.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



# Nation

## We burn 2.7 million gallons a minute, so why's oil so cheap?

**NEW YORK (AP)**—The world burns enough oil-derived fuels to drain an Olympic-sized swimming pool four times every minute. Global consumption has never been higher—and is rising.

Yet the price of a barrel of oil has fallen by more than half over the past six months because the globe, experts say, is awash in oil.

So, where did all this oil come from?

The Earth has been accumulating oil and natural gas for about a billion years or so. Humans have been drilling and burning crude and gas in significant amounts for only the last 156 years, since the 1859 birth of the oil industry in Pennsylvania.

So, even when oil prices spiked earlier this decade amid worries that oil supplies would soon run low, scientists and oil companies knew there was plenty available. It wasn't so much a question of how much oil and gas was left in the earth's crust, but whether we could figure out how to squeeze it out and make money doing so.

"How much oil we have is an economic and technical question, not a geologic one," says Doug Duncan of the U.S. Geological Survey. "There's far more than we can extract economically using today's technology."

More than enough, for now at least, to sustain record high consumption of 91.4 million barrels per day. There are 42 gallons in a barrel, so that's 3.8 billion gallons per day. Looked at another way, it's as if every human on the planet went through a gallon of oil every two days.

Since 1980, the world has burned nearly 40 trillion gallons. That's a bit more liquid than held by Lake Tahoe, the 11th deepest lake in the world. It's enough to cover the state of California in oil to a depth of 14 inches.

While that may sound like a lot, remember that Lake Tahoe, on a map of the globe, is a pretty small dot. There is sedimentary rock that holds old organic matter under huge swaths of the earth's crust. Some of the rock is 20,000 to 30,000 feet thick, says Scott Tinker, a geologist at the



In this July 17, 2009 file photo, an Iraqi worker operates valves at the Nahran Omar oil refinery near the city of Basra 550 kilometers (340 miles) southeast of Baghdad.

and gas than we are using. For example, since 1980, even while we were consuming all that oil, the amount we've found, but haven't yet produced, has more than doubled. The world's proven reserves are now 1.7 trillion barrels, up from 683 billion barrels in 1980, according to a closely watched statistical energy review published by BP.

Technology advances come in fits and starts, and are usually spurred by high prices. The price of oil began rising alarmingly in the early and mid-2000s, inspiring oil companies to take risks to apply new technology to find harder-to-reach oil.

In 2007 and 2008, they hadn't yet cracked the code, and consumption was rising fast, so oil spiked to nearly \$150 a barrel.

They've now not only caught up to the growth in demand, but surpassed it. The big technological breakthrough this time was the means to tap so-called unconventional resources, especially layers of shale and other

oil-and-gas rich rock.

In the past, drillers had to look for pools of oil and gas that had collected over millennia, forced by gravity and pressure from source rock into what are known as "traps." Now they can access the layers of source rock directly, bringing billions of barrels of this unconventional oil suddenly within reach.

Rising production from these and other sources, including Canadian oil sands, oil found under mile-thick layers of salt in Brazil's deep waters, and Iraq's enormous fields has for now outpaced rising demand.

That has sent the price of oil under \$50 a barrel—it closed Wednesday at \$48.48—after spending most of the last four years near \$100. That's less than what it costs to produce oil in many cases, which means production is likely to fall slowly until demand can catch up.

That could cause prices to shoot back up, and we might again wonder where the next barrel of oil will come from.

"A lot of people thought we were on a downward supply curve with more and more expensive oil and gas," Duncan says. "New technology changed that equation. We don't know if the equation will be changed again."

### New issue of Charlie Hebdo sells out quickly

**PARIS (AP)**—Parisians lined up Wednesday to empty the newsstands of the first issue of Charlie Hebdo, a week after Islamic extremists attacked the satirical newspaper's office, and French justice officials began cracking down by arresting dozens of people who glorified terrorism or made racist or anti-Semitic remarks.

The editors of the publication again put a caricature of the Prophet Muhammad on the cover, and it quickly sold out by early morning around the capital and elsewhere, with long lines and scuffles at kiosks. Disappointed buyers were told to come back Thursday when more of the increased print run of 5 million copies will be available.

A leader of Yemen's al-Qaida branch officially claimed responsibility for the attacks by two gunmen that left 12 dead at the weekly publication, saying in a video posted online that the slayings came in "vengeance for the prophet." The newspaper had received repeated threats for lampooning Muhammad.

A third attacker killed five other people, bringing the total number of dead in the Jan. 7-9 spasm of violence to 17 before all the gunmen died in police raids.

On alert for new attacks, France deployed thousands of police and soldiers around the country, and they moved to quash any racist remarks or praise for terrorists.

The scale of security measures is raising questions in some quarters about whether some freedoms will be impinged upon.

At least 54 people were arrested for hate speech or other acts insulting religious faiths, or for cheering the men who carried out the attacks.

The new issue of Charlie Hebdo features the prophet, a tear rolling down his cheek, holding a placard that says "Je Suis Charlie." The saying has swept France and the world, with the irreverent newspaper being embraced as a symbol of freedom of speech.

Prime Minister Manuel Valls held up his copy after the weekly Cabinet meeting—but strategically placed his hand over the prophet's face.

University of Texas's Jackson School of Geosciences. Only a small portion holds oil and gas, but the scale of the possible resource is enormous.

That's part of what worries climate scientists so much.

Burning the oil and gas that we've already found—never mind what we haven't yet—will lead to dangerous and possibly catastrophic changes in the earth's climate, they say.

And we're finding more oil

## Holiday shopping hiccup: US retail sales fell in December

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—With the job market on a roll and gas prices falling, consumers are spending away, right?

Not quite. Americans actually cut back last month after ramping up spending in November, perplexing analysts who had expected strong retail sales in December in light of rising job growth and sinking gas prices.

Sales fell a seasonally adjusted 0.9 percent from November to December, the Commerce Department said Wednesday. It was the largest drop since January. Much of the decline didn't actually reflect a diminished consumer appetite: Americans spent less at the gas station because of those lower fuel prices—a decline that's included in the retail sales figures.

That said, sales in most other categories lost ground, too.

Yet analysts see no need to worry yet. Most think consumers will bounce back in coming months on the back of healthy job gains and rising confidence. Economists say many temporary factors likely held back

sales in December.

Excluding the volatile categories of gas, autos, building materials and restaurants, sales dropped 0.4 percent after rising 0.6 percent in November. Online and mail-order sales fell 0.3 percent, the most since April.

November's strong sales might have caused shoppers to pull back last month, economists said. Before slipping in December, for example, auto sales had soared in November.

And the financial benefit of falling gas prices can take time to register with consumers. It may take a month or two of persistent savings before consumers begin to spend the windfall.

With hiring still healthy, consumer confidence rising and households reducing their debt loads, most economists expect Americans to spend at a healthy pace this year, supporting solid economic growth.

"This isn't the start of a collapse in activity ... as that doesn't fit with the strength of employment growth and consumer confidence," Paul Diggle, an

economist at Capital Economics, said in a note to clients. "As such, retail sales will strengthen again before too long."

And total holiday sales, which include both November and December but exclude gas, autos, and restaurant spending, rose 4 percent from 12 months earlier. That was the largest gain since 2011, according to the National Retail Federation and some independent economists.

Still, stock investors were disappointed by Wednesday's report. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 266 points in mid-day trading.

Economists cited several reasons why retail sales likely fell off in December:

■ Retailers engaged in heavy discounting, which lowers the dollar value of sales. The government's figures aren't adjusted for inflation. When consumer spending figures adjusted for price changes are released next month, they will probably paint a better picture, economists said.

■ The holiday shopping season is getting stretched at both

ends. Many stores launched the holiday season as early as October and even pulled forward Black Friday promotions days before the traditional Thanksgiving weekend. That likely led to weaker December sales and resulted in the declining importance of a single shopping day. In addition, gift card sales aren't recorded until they're redeemed. Those sales, as a result, may not appear until January.

■ While hiring has been healthy, Americans' paychecks aren't getting any thicker. That limits their ability to spend. Average hourly pay slipped in December, the government said last week, and rose just 1.7 percent last year. That's only slightly ahead of the 1.3 percent inflation rate.

■ Americans have reduced their debt as a percentage of income back to 2003 levels. And they are reluctant to run up their credit cards as they did in the past: Total credit card debt fell in November from October. It is still far below pre-recession levels.



### LEADING INDICATORS

**DOW**  
17,427.09  
-186.59  
-1.06%

**S&P**  
2,011.27  
-11.76  
-0.58%

**NASDAQ**  
4,639.32  
-22.18  
-0.48%

In U.S. dollar terms

### EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar	1.2177
British Pound	0.6561
Canadian Dollar	1.1962
Chinese Yuan	6.1966
Euro	0.8487

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7544	Philippine Peso	44.536
Indian Rupee	61.81	Singapore Dollar	1.3337
Indonesian Rupiah	12613.75	South Korean Won	1082.45
Japanese Yen	117.605	Swiss Franc	1.0194
Malaysian Ringgit	3.5734	Taiwan Dollar	31.818
New Zealand Dollar	1.2927	Thailand Baht	32.76



# Nation

## Ohio man accused of plotting to attack US Capitol, arrested

CINCINNATI (AP)—A man who plotted to attack the U.S. Capitol and kill government officials inside it and spoke of his desire to support the Islamic State militant group was arrested on Wednesday, the FBI said.

A criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court in Ohio charges Christopher Lee Cornell with attempting to kill officers and employees of the United States. Just a day earlier, authorities revealed another Ohio man had been charged with threatening to kill House Speaker John Boehner.

Cornell, also known as Raheel Mahrus Ubaydah, was arrested

as he took control of a firearm during an undercover FBI operation in southwestern Ohio, the FBI said. The public was never in danger in the investigation, said John Barrios, acting special agent in charge of the FBI's Cincinnati division.

A phone message and an email were left Wednesday for attorney Karen Savir, a federal public defender listed in court records as Cornell's attorney. A working phone number could not be found for Cornell's family members.



Cornell

The complaint alleges that an FBI informant began supplying agents with information about Cornell last year. The informant and Cornell, who's 20 and lives in Green Township, first began communicating through Twitter in August and then through an instant messaging platform separate from Twitter, according to the complaint.

"I believe we should meet up and make our own group in alliance with the Islamic State here and plan operations our-

selves," Cornell wrote in an instant message, according to the court document.

The Islamic State militant organization, which broke with the al-Qaida network and took control of large parts of Iraq and Syria, has drawn jihadi fighters from across the Muslim world and Europe. It has been blamed for violence such as the beheadings of foreign captives including a former U.S. soldier turned aid worker and two American journalists.

Cornell and the informant met in person in October in Cincinnati and again in November, the complaint states. Cornell

told the informant at the November meeting that he considered the members of Congress as enemies and that he intended to conduct an attack on the Capitol, according to the complaint. The document says Cornell discussed his plan for them to travel to Washington and conduct reconnaissance of the security of government buildings including the Capitol before executing "a plan of attack."

Cornell planned for the two to detonate pipe bombs at and near the Capitol and then shoot and kill employees and officials, and Cornell had saved money to fund the attack, ac-

cording to the complaint.

Cornell was arrested after buying two semi-automatic rifles and about 600 rounds of ammunition, authorities said.

On Tuesday, authorities disclosed a Cincinnati-area bartender had been charged with threatening to kill Boehner at a country club near his home with a gun or a poisoned drink. Boehner, a Republican, returned to the Capitol on Wednesday without commenting to reporters. But a Boehner spokesman, Michael Steel, said, "Once again, the entire Congress owes a debt of gratitude to the FBI and all those who keep us safe."

## 2 men reach top of Yosemite's El Capitan in historic climb

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, Calif. (AP)—A pair of Americans completed what had long been considered the world's most difficult rock climb Wednesday, using only their hands and feet to scale a 3,000-foot vertical wall on El Capitan, the forbidding granite pedestal in Yosemite National Park that has beckoned adventurers for more than half a century.

Tommy Caldwell and Kevin Jorgeson became the first to free-climb the rock formation's Dawn Wall, a feat that many had considered impossible. They used ropes and safety harnesses to catch themselves in case of a fall, but relied entirely on their own strength and dexterity to ascend by grasping cracks as thin as razor blades and as small as dimes.

The effort took 19 days as the two dealt with constant falls and injuries. But their success completes a yearslong dream that bordered on obsession for the men.

Caldwell was the first to finish Wednesday afternoon. He waited on a ledge for Jorgeson, who caught up minutes later. The two embraced before Jorgeson pumped his arms in the air and clapped his hands above his head. Then they sat down for a few moments, gathered their gear, changed clothes and hiked to the nearby summit.

About 200 people were waiting for them, including Caldwell's wife and Jorgeson's girlfriend, who welcomed them to the top with hugs and kisses. It will take the pair two to three hours to hike down the mountain.

In the meadow far below, an-



Tommy Caldwell, top, raises his arms after reaching the summit of El Capitan, Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2015, as seen from the valley floor in Yosemite National Park, Calif. Caldwell and Kevin Jorgeson became the first to free-climb the rock formation's Dawn Wall.

other crowd broke into cheers. Relatives of the men watched on telescopic monitors.

Caldwell's mother, Terry, said her son could have reached the top several days ago, but he waited for his friend to make sure they got there together.

"That's a deep, abiding, lifelong friendship, built over suffering on the wall together over six years," she said.

President Barack Obama sent his congratulations from the White House Twitter account, saying the men "remind us that anything is possible."

### Rock climbing techniques

There are many styles of climbing. Here's a look at a few techniques and their reliance on equipment for ascension and safety.

**Aid Climbing**  
The style of climbing in which devices or placed protection are used to progress upward.



Source: American Alpine Institute

**Free Climbing**  
Free from aid, this style uses ropes and equipment to catch climbers if they fall, but not to aid in their ascent.



**Free Solo Climbing**  
This style is the most dangerous. No ropes are used for ascent or safety, and climbers ascend alone.



Graphic: Tribune News Service

The trek up the world's largest granite monolith began Dec. 27. Caldwell and Jorgeson lived on the wall itself, eating and

sleeping in tents fastened to the rock thousands of feet above the ground and battling painful cuts to their fingertips much of the way.

Free-climbers do not pull themselves up with cables or use chisels to carve out handholds. Instead, they climb inch by inch, wedging their fingers and feet into tiny crevices or gripping sharp, thin projections of rock. In photographs, the two appeared at times like Spider-Man, with arms and legs splayed across the pale stone that has been described as smooth as a bedroom wall.

## 10 dead when Texas prison bus skids off highway, hits train

ODESSA, Texas (AP)—

A prison bus skidded off an icy Texas highway, slid down an embankment and collided with a passing freight train Wednesday, killing eight inmates and two corrections officers, including the bus driver, authorities said.

The overpass on Interstate 20 was slick with ice Wednesday morning when the Texas Department of Criminal Justice bus left the roadway in Penwell, just west of Odessa, according to Ector County Sheriff Mark Donaldson.

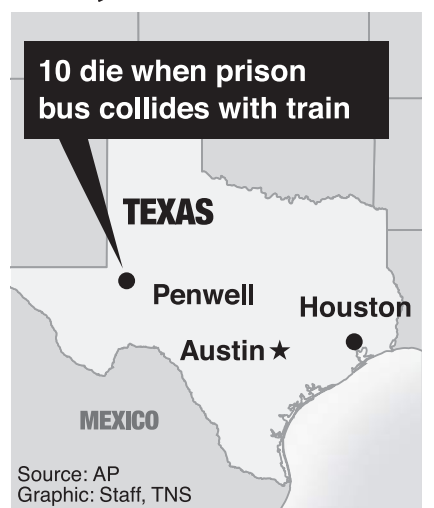
The prisoners, who did not have seat belts, were handcuffed together in pairs, officials said. Some of them were ejected from the bus after it struck the train, said Trooper Elizabeth Barney of the Texas Department of Public Safety.

An earlier accident on the I-20 overpass may have contributed to the prison bus losing control, Donaldson said.

"It's as bad as you can imagine," Odessa Fire and Rescue Battalion Chief Kavin Tinney told the Odessa American newspaper. "In 32 years it's as bad as anything I've seen."

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice confirmed the 10 deaths in a statement, adding that four prisoners and one corrections officer were also injured.

Jason Clark, a Department of Criminal Justice spokesman, said the bus was new and had



10 die when prison bus collides with train

been placed in service only this past summer. It was taking the inmates from the Middleton prison in Abilene to the Sanchez prison in El Paso, which is about 250 miles west of where the accident happened.

The prisoners did not have any leg restraints, said Jason Heaton, agency director for the region. Only the driver's seat had a seat belt, he said. Like many buses, the vehicle did not have seat belts on the bench-type seats where the prisoners were seated.

After the accident around 7:30 a.m., the white bus came to rest on its side, next to the railroad tracks, crumpled with heavy damage to its front and undercarriage. The top of the bus was caved inward.

The Union Pacific freight train with four locomotives and 58 cars came to a stop soon after. None of the cars derailed, but two containers at the rear of the train were damaged, said Mark Davis, a railroad spokesman.

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—In a rare scare, astronauts fled the American side of the International Space Station on Wednesday after an alarm indicated a possible toxic leak. NASA later said there was no leak of ammonia coolant and a computer problem likely set off the false alarm.

By Wednesday afternoon, the astronauts were back in the U.S. part of the orbiting outpost. Earlier, the six crew members had huddled safely on the Russian side—once when the alarm sounded and again following an initial all-clear.

"Hey everybody, thanks for your concern,"

## Astronauts flee US side of space station but no sign of leak

Italian astronaut Samantha Cristoforetti said via Twitter. "We're all safe & doing well in the Russian segment."

The "unscheduled excitement," as NASA called it, occurred around 4 a.m. EST, well into the station crew's workday.

As alarms blared, the astronauts followed emergency procedures in slapping on oxygen masks, taking cover in the Russian quarters, then sealing the hatches between the U.S. and Russian sides. At the same time, flight controllers at NA-

SA's Johnson Space Center in Houston turned off non-essential equipment.

Within minutes, Mission Control gave an all-clear, but sent the astronauts scurrying back over to the Russian side again when there was more evidence of a possible leak of the coolant.

The highly toxic liquid ammonia, flowing outside the space station, is used to cool electronics. Flight controllers originally feared it had gotten into the water system running inside. Now, it's believed that a failed card in a computer-relay

box was the culprit.

The crew—three Russians, two Americans and the Italian Cristoforetti—stayed in the three, relatively small Russian compartments while Mission Control analyzed data. Engineers wanted to understand the computer failure and confirm "that the system is tight like we believe it to be," space station program manager Mike Suffredini said on NASA TV.

About 11 hours after the ammonia system alarm sounded, the hatch to the U.S. segment was reopened. Cristoforetti and U.S. astronaut Terry Virts ran tests and no ammonia was detected.



# Asia

## Pope travels to war-torn north Sri Lanka, urges forgiveness

**MADHU, Sri Lanka (AP)**—Pope Francis traveled to the jungles of war-torn northern Sri Lanka on Wednesday for a deeply symbolic show of solidarity with the victims of the country's 25-year civil war and to urge Sri Lankans as a whole to forgive one another "for all the evil which this land has known."

■■■

**COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)**—Pope Francis is heading for the Philippines on Thursday where adoring crowds await his arrival as the first pope to visit the predominantly Catholic nation in 20 years.

The government has declared national holidays during his visit, which runs through the weekend.

The pope's trip is giving

### In Sri Lanka, hoping for a touch from Pope Francis

**COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)**—They came to hear him, to see him. They came from mansions in Colombo, from concrete apartment buildings in Kandy, from little villages in the hills of Sri Lanka. And how could they not come? To the faithful, Pope Francis is the Vicar of Christ, the successor to St. Peter, the embodiment of the Catholic Church and everything it stands for.

So more than anything, the estimated 800,000 people who saw him in Sri Lanka came hoping for a touch. A blessing, maybe. A hand laid upon a baby's head.

Pope Francis has worked to

**Philippine authorities daunting security challenges, including an outdoor Mass on Sunday that could draw a record 6 million people.**

**Francis also plans to visit Tacloban, which was devastated by a typhoon in 2013.**

■■■

An estimated 300,000 people waving the white and yellow Vatican flags welcomed Francis to the Our Lady of Madhu shrine, which is revered by both Sinhalese and Tamil Catholics, as well as people of other faiths. No pope has ever traveled to the northern Tamil region, and Francis' visit to Sri Lanka's holiest Christian shrine—hours after canonizing the country's first saint as a model for unity—provided a poignant backdrop for his appeal that Sri Lankans not

only reconcile but forgive one another for the sake of peace.

"Only when we come to understand, in the light of the cross, the evil we are capable of and have even been a part of, can we experience true remorse and true repentance," he said after setting free a dove in a sign of peace. "Only then can we receive the grace to approach one another in true contrition, offering and seeking true forgiveness."

Tamil Tiger rebels fought a 25-year civil war to demand an independent Tamil nation after decades of perceived discrimination by governments dominated by the Sinhalese majority. U.N. estimates say 80,000 to 100,000 people were killed during the course of the war, though other reports suggest the

appears. So again and again, they reached out to him, with the fortunate who succeeded sometimes breaking down in tears.

But a pope can touch only so many people.

On Wednesday, Francis traveled to Sri Lanka's holiest Christian shrine, in a tiny town battered by the country's long civil war.

At the edge of the crowd in Madhu, an 11-year-old boy held up a sign that said in large letters: "'I can't speak please bless me!'" His mother pushed him forward as Francis passed by them.

The boy, though, could not get through the crowds.

toll could be much higher. The government finally crushed the rebels in a bloody series of offensives that ended in 2009.

During the war, the Madhu shrine—which was originally built in the 16th century by

Catholics fleeing persecution in the northern Jaffna kingdom—again became a place of refuge with thousands of people fleeing there for cover.

"I believe the holy father's visit will be a remedy to our pain,"

said Mary Conseeta, 22, who lost two brothers, aged 13 and 15, in 2008 when the school bus they were traveling home in exploded in a roadside blast blamed on Sri Lankan forces. She escaped with a wound in her leg.



AP

Pope Francis reaches out to bless a Sri Lankan Catholic woman during his visit to the Church of Our Lady of Madhu in Madhu, Sri Lanka, Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2015.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Guards shoot 3 suspected poachers at Indian rhino reserve

**GAUHATI, India (AP)**—Wildlife rangers in remote northeastern India shot three suspected poachers dead in a gunbattle Wednesday morning in a famed rhino reserve. It was the second recent case of violence in Kaziranga National Park, where three other poachers have been shot dead in the past two weeks. On Wednesday, the rangers had received a tip and "were lying in wait at three locations inside the park," National Park Director M.K. Yadava said. They spotted four armed poachers, and a shootout erupted with three of the poachers killed and one escaping, Yadava said. The rangers later recovered two rifles and a pistol from the dead poachers.

#### Indian state targets illegal liquor sales as deaths hit 38

**LUCKNOW, India (AP)**—Authorities in a north Indian state suspended 23 officials Wednesday in a crackdown on illegal liquor sales, as the death toll among villagers who drank from a bad batch of cheap alcohol climbed to 38. Investigators were looking into whether officials neglected to halt illegal liquor sales, possibly accepting bribes to ignore the trade, District Magistrate Raj Shekhar said. Hospitals were still treating more than 100 people poisoned by homemade alcohol bought Sunday night from a village shop in Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state. Officials said many people lost their eyesight and eight are in critical condition.

#### Trials of US couple charged with

#### murder begin in Indonesia

**BALI, Indonesia (AP)**—An American couple went on trial in Indonesia on Wednesday on charges of murdering the woman's mother last year on the resort island of Bali. The badly beaten body of Sheila von Wiese-Mack, 62, was found in a suitcase in the trunk of a taxi outside an upscale hotel. Heather Mack, 19, and her boyfriend Tommy Schaefer, 21, both from Chicago, are being tried separately at the Denpasar District Court on Bali. The judges and prosecutors are the same in both trials. Prosecutors charged them with premeditated murder, which carries a possible death penalty. Mack and Schaefer said they understood the charges. They are to enter pleas when the trial resumes next week. Mack earlier told investigators that Schaefer beat her mother during an argument, according to her lawyer.

#### Surrogate moms sue Thai ministry for custody of 13 children

**BANGKOK (AP)**—The surrogate mothers of 13 babies fathered by a Japanese businessman are suing Thai authorities and seeking to regain custody of the children, officials said Wednesday. The Social Development and Human Security Ministry took 13 babies into custody last year after an investigation involving a Japanese man who had at least 16 babies via surrogates. In August, police raided a Bangkok condominium and found nine babies and nine nannies living in a few unfurnished rooms filled with baby bottles, bouncy chairs, play pens and diapers. They have since identified Mitsutoki Shigeta as the father of those babies—and seven others.

## North Korea's Kim Jong Un mulls Russia for his world debut

**TOKYO (AP)**—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is looking increasingly likely to visit Russia in his first trip abroad since taking power three years ago, giving the world an unprecedented chance to see him at work on the international stage.

Moscow has invited many world leaders—including Kim and the presidents of China and South Korea—to celebrations marking the 70th anniversary of the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany, which will include a massive parade on Red Square.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's foreign affairs adviser, Yuri Ushakov, said last month the Kremlin had received the "first signals from Pyongyang" that the North Korean leader is planning to attend the May 9 festivities. South Korean media quoted anonymous sources in Beijing this week as saying that Kim is likely to accept. U.S. President Barack Obama has re-

portedly decided to stay home, so that awkwardness has apparently been averted.

North Korea has not officially commented on the invitation and still has ample time to decline it.

But choosing Moscow for his first overseas trip would be a strong indication of the direction Kim wants to take his country. It would also provide the outside world with a rare look at a man who, while revered at the center of an intense cult of personality at home, is one of the biggest mysteries in international politics.

In the three years since he assumed power, Kim has shown a style of leadership devotedly in line with the policies of his father, Kim Jong Il and—despite a month-long absence last year that set North Korea watchers into a frenzy of speculation about his health—adhered to the tried-and-true "field guidance" photo opportunities at

farms, factories and military bases that are a staple way of presenting North Korea's hands-on form of leadership.

He has also inserted a personal touch.

Unlike his reclusive father, who rarely spoke in public, Kim has revived the custom started by his charismatic grandfather, North Korea's "eternal president" Kim Il Sung, of delivering speeches on New Year's Day. He often makes public appearances with his photogenic wife and does not seem to share his predecessors' reported fear of flying—the state-run media recently showed him taking the controls of an airplane in flight.

Though Kim Il Sung enjoyed the strong support of the Soviet Union, its collapse in 1991 drove North Korea and China much closer. Kim Jong Il visited China seven times, always by train, including three visits between 2010 and his death in 2011.



# World

## Paris gunman's safe house could hold clues to 4th attacker

**PARIS (AP)**—Amedy Coulibaly, the gunman who killed four hostages at a Paris kosher supermarket, rented a small suburban house the week before and filled it with an impressive arsenal of late-model weapons, police said Wednesday.

A published report said a search of the house has enabled police to identify a potential fourth attacker as investigators follow the money and supply systems for the three known killers, all of whom died in police raids. Police told The Associated Press as many as six members of the same radical Islamic terror cell may be at large.

"We have put our finger on some extremely dangerous people, men and women," French

police union spokesman Christophe Crepin said. "We are really in a war."

Of special interest is the small attached house on a quiet street in the town of Gentilly south of Paris that Coulibaly rented about two weeks ago. French police officials refused to say what has been discovered inside the dwelling, but the newspaper Le Parisien reported detectives from the Paris Criminal Brigade and a special police anti-terrorism unit seized a scooter there that allowed them to identify "a fourth man" who acted as Coulibaly's accomplice.

The newspaper did not identify the man by name, but said he may have shot and seriously wounded a jogger in nearby

Fontenay-aux-Roses on Jan. 7, the same day two friends of Coulibaly, brothers Cherif and Said Kouachi, killed 12 people at the offices of Charlie Hebdo.

"The fourth man," who has a lengthy criminal record, may have been involved in that attack, the newspaper reported, adding that he may have already escaped to Syria.

When an AP reporter visited the Gentilly house this week, neighbors said they had noticed nothing out of the ordinary, with one saying the muscular, 5-foot-5 (165 cm) Coulibaly had been a regular at the local weight room.

Officials said the attackers accumulated a veritable arsenal that included three late-model

Kalashnikov assault rifles, a rocket-propelled grenade launcher, a machine pistol, smoke grenades and bombs, fragmentation grenades, handguns and industrial explosives.

In addition to the weapons, investigators are painstakingly following the money trail. Former drug-dealing associates of Coulibaly told AP he was selling marijuana and hashish in the Paris suburbs as recently as a month ago. Multiple French news accounts have said the Kouachi brothers sold knockoff sporting goods made in China.

Crepin said police believe the killers didn't have the resources to bankroll the terrorist operation on their own. Not only was there the

cost of weapons, ammunition and equipment to cover, he said, but also money needed to rent suspected hideouts like the one in Gentilly and to pay their living expenses.

"We're dealing with a well-organized mafia-like structure," Crepin said.

However, Peter Neumann, director of the International Center for the Study of Radicalization, King's College London, said that in keeping with the guidelines laid down in an influential handbook for jihadis published in 2004, he believes the Paris attacks were self-financed.

"They could use credit-card fraud ... even stealing from people," Neumann said. "Their attitude is the whole of society (in

Europe) is rotten infidels."

A regional French newspaper has unearthed one additional revenue source: a loan for 6,000 euros (around \$7,000) that Coulibaly obtained Dec. 4 from a consumer-lending company headquartered in northern France. In a video made public after all three terrorists had been shot dead by police, Coulibaly said he'd given the brothers several thousand euros so they could buy gear.

But two U.S. intelligence officials cast doubt on that account on Wednesday, saying they doubt that the Islamic State-affiliated Coulibaly coordinated in advance with the Kouachi brothers, who said they were acting on behalf of al-Qaeda in Yemen.

## Yemen's al-Qaida claims Paris attack, vows more violence

**CAIRO (AP)**—Yemen's al-Qaida branch on Wednesday confirmed it carried out last week's deadly assault on a French satirical newspaper to avenge cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad, as it called for unity among jihadi ranks and vowed more attacks on the West.

In an 11-minute video posted on the group's Twitter account, Nasr al-Ansi, a top commander of al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, said the attack on the office of the Charlie Hebdo weekly—in which two gunmen massacred 12 people—was in "revenge for the prophet."

He warned of more "tragedies and terror" in the future, saying "you will look for peace and

stability but you will not find it because of the deeds of those carrying out martyrdom operations and heroes of lone jihad."

Al-Ansi said AQAP "chose the target, laid out the plan and financed the operation." He said the radical Yemeni-American cleric Anwar al-Awlaki, who was killed in a U.S. drone strike in Yemen in September 2011, had arranged the attack.

If confirmed, that would mean the Paris attack was years in the making. But Al-Ansi produced no evidence to support his claims, leaving lingering questions over the exact relationship between the attackers and the militant group's leadership in Yemen.

U.S. intelligence officials say

they have no evidence AQAP coordinated the attack or knew about it in advance. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss classified matters publicly.

An AQAP member told The Associated Press Friday that the group was responsible, but the video contained the first official claim.

The statement emerged as Charlie Hebdo defiantly released a new issue with a caricature of the prophet on the cover, with copies selling out before dawn across Paris.

The assault on the magazine was the first successful operation by AQAP outside of Yemen, and came after a number of failed at-

tacks on the U.S., which views the Yemeni affiliate as al-Qaida's most dangerous franchise.

Al-Ansi said orders came from al-Qaida's top leader Ayman al-Zawahiri, Osama bin Laden's successor. The attack on the weekly was the beginning of three days of terror in France that saw 17 people killed before three Islamic extremists were gunned down by security forces.

Brothers Said and Cherif Kouachi, who carried out the attack on the paper, were "heroes," al-Ansi said.

"Congratulations to you, the nation of Islam, for this revenge that has soothed our pain," he said.

He made no claim to a subsequent attack on a kosher grocery

store by a friend of the Kouachis, Amedy Coulibaly, who killed a French policewoman on Thursday and four hostages on Friday.

Coulibaly appeared in a video message two days after his death pledging allegiance to the Islamic State group, a fierce rival to al-Qaida, and saying he had worked with the Kouachis.

The Coulibaly video raised questions over possible cooperation between the rival groups, which are competing for resources, recruits and leadership of the worldwide jihadi movement, and which in Syria are battling over turf.

Al-Ansi called the timing of the two attacks a "coincidence." But he also praised Coulibaly

and appealed for unity among jihadi ranks, saying the attack marked a "new turning point in the history of confrontation" with the West.

"Al Qaeda seeks to unify the jihad and will work with other groups," said Katherine Zimmerman, a research fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. "Coulibaly's support for ISIS did not appear to affect AQAP's calculations in praising his role."

However, she added that AQAP's rejection of the Islamic State's self-styled caliphate would likely preclude cooperation at higher levels.

By taking responsibility for the deadliest attack in France in more than half a century, al-Qaida's Yemeni branch is positioning itself as the group's most influential offshoot.

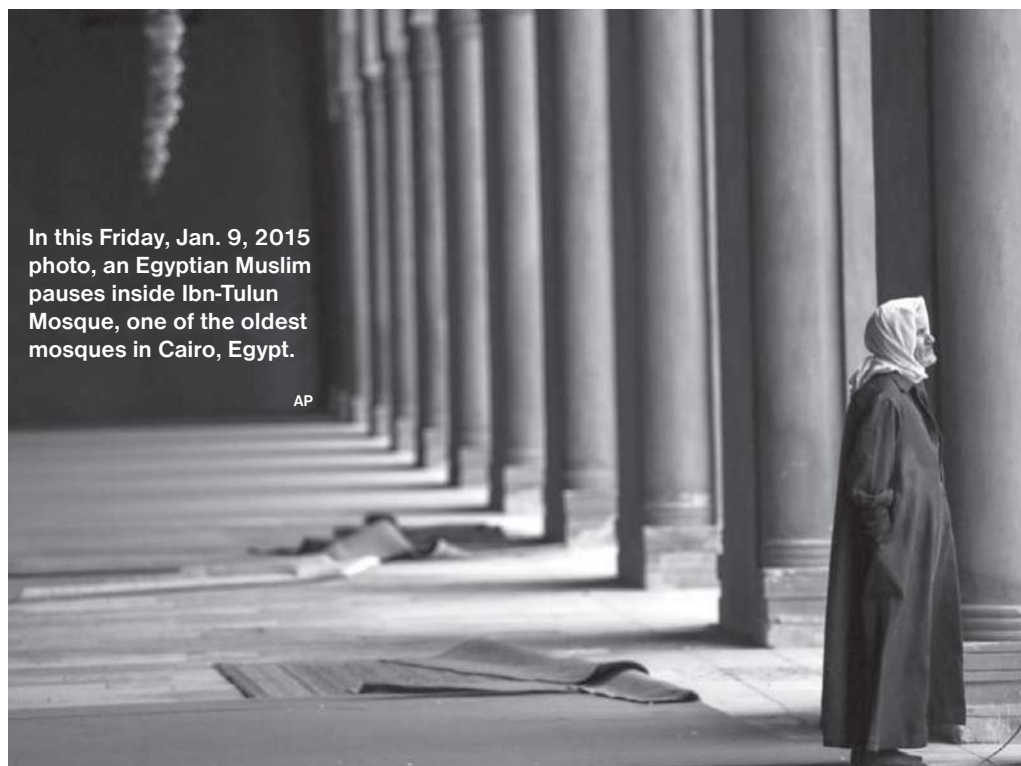
**CAIRO (AP)**—It's not mentioned in Islam's holy book, the Quran, but the religion's ban on depicting the Prophet Muhammad—even favorably—has run firm through the centuries.

Religious traditions built over the years have prohibited such depictions out of respect for Muhammad and to discourage idolatry, according to Muslim scholars and clerics. The ban is further rooted in a wider prohibition against images or statues of human beings.

There have been exceptions. A rich tradition of depicting Muhammad emerged in miniatures and illustrations for manuscripts from around 1200 to 1700. The art is mainly from Turkey and Iran, where pictorial traditions were stronger than in the Arab world. The paintings often show traditional stories from Muhammad's life, such as his journey to heaven, though in some the prophet's face is obscured by a veil or a plume of flame.

Shiites also differ from Sunnis by depicting Muhammad's son-in-law Ali, revered by Shiites who see him as the prophet's rightful successor. His image—and those of his sons

## In Islam, a long tradition against depicting the prophet



In this Friday, Jan. 9, 2015 photo, an Egyptian Muslim pauses inside Ibn-Tulun Mosque, one of the oldest mosques in Cairo, Egypt.

AP

Hassan and Hussein—are plentiful among Shiites, adorning posters, banners, jewelry and even keychains. For Sunnis, the ban on depictions extends beyond the prophet to his close companions and wives.

"The Prophet Muhammad

enjoys sublime and supreme status among Muslims and it is impossible to let a normal person depict or act the role of the prophet," said Iraqi Shiite cleric Fadhil al-Saadi. "There is no confirmed information about the shape or the features of the

Prophet ... So nobody should come up with a painting or an image of him. That would represent an insult to the status of the prophet."

With no explicit text against depictions—or against images of humans in general—the prohibi-

tion comes from deduction by Muslim scholars and interpreters over the centuries from the collections of Hadeeth, or sayings and actions of Muhammad.

The prohibition against depicting humans and other living beings, which emerged from scholars as early as the 9th century, came from reported sayings of Muhammad, in some of which he refused to enter a room with such depictions or challenged their creators to breathe life into them. The presumption was that such art would suggest man can emulate God's powers of creation—and there were worries that statues in particular could encourage idolatry.

Islamic tradition is full of written descriptions of Muhammad and his qualities—describing him as the ideal human being. But clerics have generally agreed that trying to depict that ideal is forbidden. That puts satirical—and obscene—depictions like those in the French magazing Charlie Hebdo far beyond the pale.

While no one knows Muham-

mad's true appearance, followers of the relatively modern, ultra-conservative Salafi movement in Islam seek to emulate him as closely as possible—including in what they believe to be his physical features and dress. Hardcore Salafis wear a beard without a moustache, let their hair grow long, line their eyes with kohl or wear robes stopping around mid-shin, contending that was the prophet's manner.

The ban also extends to his wives, daughters, sons-in-law, the first caliphs who succeeded him and his closest companions. In fact, Egypt's al-Azhar mosque, the Sunni world's foremost seat of religious learning, has complained when "Mohammed, Messenger of God," an epic 1970s Hollywood production, depicted the prophet's camel.

There is a thriving production of religious TV series in the Arab world depicting the times of the prophet. But Muhammad and his companions are never themselves shown. At times, a white light stands in for Muhammad in the films or in movie posters—and when they are meant to be addressing Muhammad, the actors usually speak into the camera.



# Off The Wall

## ‘In Dog We Trust’ accidentally printed on sheriff’s rugs



**LARGO, Fla. (AP)**--The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office in Florida has gone to the dogs. Well, at least its rugs have.

Department spokeswoman Cecilia Barreda said Wednesday that a new, \$500 rug at the sheriff's administration building

said "In Dog We Trust" instead of "In God We Trust."

The forest green rug with the sheriff's yellow badge was in the entrance area for a couple of months when the error was discovered Wednesday by a deputy.

Barreda says the error was

made by the rug manufacturer and it's in the process of being corrected. A second rug did not have the misprint.

The rugs were rolled up and put away Wednesday. It's not clear if the new carpet smell had worn off.

## Cabbie gets tip of lifetime: almost \$1,000

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)**--An anonymous passenger brightened a Philadelphia cab driver's night with the tip of a lifetime: nearly \$1,000 on a \$4.31 fare.

Oumar Maiga's bosses revealed the hefty, holiday-season gratuity Wednesday after waiting to make sure the credit card

cleared and it wasn't an error.

The West African immigrant received the \$989.98 tip Dec. 13.

Maiga's bosses tell Philly.com the cabbie and passenger chatted briefly during the mile-long trip from the city's Old City section to Columbus Boulevard.

Maiga said his shift had been a little hectic. The passenger said he'd make it a great night and punched in the tip.

Maiga asked if he'd made a mistake. The passenger replied, "I know what I did."

Maiga's bosses said the card company wouldn't give up the mystery tipper's name.

## Black lab likes to take solo bus ride to her dog park stop

**SEATTLE (AP)**--A black Labrador named Eclipse just wants to get to the dog park. So if her owner takes too long finishing his cigarette, and their bus arrives, she climbs aboard solo

and rides to her stop—to the delight of fellow Seattle bus passengers.

KOMO-TV reports that local radio host Miles Montgomery

was amazed to see the pooch get off the bus, without an owner, at a dog park last week.

The dog and her owner, Jeff Young, live right near a bus stop.

In Young's words, "She's a bus-riding, sidewalk-walking dog." Young says his dog sometimes gets on the bus without him, and he catches up with her at the dog park three or four

stops away.

Bus riders report she hops onto seats next to strangers, and watches out the window for her stop. Says commuter Tiona Rainwater, "All the bus drivers know her ... she makes everybody happy."

A Metro Transit spokesman said the agency loves that a dog appreciates public transit.



This image provided by KOMO-TV shows Eclipse, a black Labrador, riding between two other passengers on her way to the dog park.

### OFFBEAT BRIEFS

#### Illinois family creates 45-foot-tall icicle in front yard

**ST. ELMO, Ill. (AP)**--An Illinois family has created a 45-foot-tall icicle in their front yard. Katherine Ragel of St. Elmo in south-central Illinois' Fayette County says she's worried there might be an accident because passing traffic sometimes will "stop in the middle of the road." Ragel's son, Garrick Moreland, made the icicle. The tree trimmer climbed into one of Ragel's trees with a hose and turned on the water when temperatures dropped a few weeks ago. The icicle kept growing. The Effingham Daily News reports the idea originally came from Ragel's late husband, Alan Ragel, who liked to build smaller icicles along the driveway. St. Elmo is about 20 miles southwest of Effingham on Interstate 70.

#### Men accused of taking lamb chops in Washington burglary

**SPOKANE VALLEY, Wash. (AP)** -- A deputy questioned two men carrying large black garbage bags over their shoulders Sunday morning in Spo-

kane Valley and found they were carrying frozen lamb chops. The men said a woman gave them the food because she was moving, the Spokane Valley Sheriff's Office said. The deputy contacted the woman, who denied the story, the sheriff's office said. Deputies followed footprints in the snow to another home that had been broken into. That resident said the lamb chops had been taken from her freezer. The men were jailed on burglary and theft charges, the sheriff's office said.

#### Squirrel's wrong turn leads to Ohio power outage

**CINCINNATI (AP)** -- An energy company says a squirrel's wrong turn led to a power outage affecting about 4,500 electric customers in southwestern Ohio. Duke Energy says the customers in Forest Park in suburban Cincinnati and areas south lost power Monday morning after a squirrel entered a substation and got zapped. Northwest High School dismissed classes at 11:45 a.m. because of the outage. The company told the Cincinnati Enquirer most

customers had their power restored by noon, and the remainder had power by early afternoon.

The squirrel did not survive.

#### Police: Man steals money, caught after drunken-driving crash

**ROCHESTER, N.H. (AP)** -- Police in Rochester, New Hampshire, say a man suspected of stealing money from a gas station was captured about an hour later after he crashed his car while driving drunk. WMUR-TV reports that police arrested 27-year-old Daniel Wilson after responding to the accident scene on Charles Street near Knight Street around 3 p.m. Saturday. Police say he crossed the double yellow line and crashed into a parked car. He was charged with driving while intoxicated and unauthorized use of a propelled vehicle. Police identified him as the suspect who an hour earlier had stolen money from a safe at a Shell gas station on Washington Street. They say he managed to take the money while the clerk was busy with several customers. He was charged with theft.

## Principal: Let students hurl canned food at intruders

**VALLEY, Ala. (AP)** -- An Alabama middle school principal wants to stockpile cans of corn and peas in classrooms for students to hurl at possible intruders as a last resort defense.

In a letter Friday, W.F. Burns Middle School Principal Priscella Holley asked parents to have each student bring an 8-ounce canned item.

"We realize at first this may seem odd; however, it is a practice that would catch an intruder off guard," she wrote in the letter, published by TV station WHNT in Huntsville.

"The canned food item could stun the intruder or even knock him out until the police arrive," Holley wrote. "The canned food item will give the students a

sense of empowerment to protect themselves and will make them feel secure in case an intruder enters their classroom."

The school is in Valley, Alabama, part of the Chambers County school system.

Chambers County Schools Superintendent Kelli Hodge told The Associated Press on Tuesday that school staff had been working with Auburn University's Department of Public Safety on training to respond to such emergencies.

However, Chance Corbett, Auburn's associate director of public safety, said he had actually referred the school to the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency for active shooter training after learning Monday

that school officials wanted the training.

The food cans would be stored in classrooms and students wouldn't be carrying them around school, Hodge told the AP.

Using cans or other items as weapons would be a last resort for students unable to evacuate, she said.

Teachers are taught to barricade classroom doors if an intruder is in the school, but if that fails, the cans and items such as textbooks could be used, she said.

"If somebody is going to force their way through, then as the last resort you would start throwing any objects you could get your hands on," Hodge said.



# Science & Technology

## Google's new Translate app shines in a crowded field

By PATRICK MAY  
SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

**SAN FRANCISCO**—A beautiful French-speaking woman. A handsome English-speaking man. A quiet room in romantic San Francisco.

Let the magic begin, right? Actually, there's also an iPhone 6 between them on the table, which is where the magic really resides on this recent morning. The two Googlers—Parisian-born product manager Julie Cattiau and software engineer Otavio Good—are here to unveil the company's latest Translate app, supercharged with what Google calls the biggest update in years.

### Google expects public in driverless cars in 2 to 5 years

**DETROIT (AP)**—The head of self-driving cars for Google expects real people to be using them on public roads in two to five years.

Chris Urmson says the cars would still be test vehicles, and Google would collect data on how they interact with other vehicles and pedestrians.

Google is working on sensors to detect road signs and other vehicles, and software that analyzes all the data. The small, bulbous cars without steering wheels or pedals are being tested at a Google facility in California.

Urmson wouldn't give a date for putting driverless cars on roads en masse, saying that the system has to be safe enough to work properly.

He told reporters Wednesday at the Automotive News World

"I'd like a cup of coffee without milk or sugar," Good says in English into the phone, which almost immediately repeats his words in French.

"I'll bring you that right now," Cattiau replies in French, her response rendered aloud in English.

Get ready: Your own personal interpreter is coming soon. As it gains quickly in sophistication, machine-assisted translation promises to connect the world by bridging scores of languages while giving high-school Spanish teachers a run for their money. Google's free app, which was officially launched to the world early Wednesday, is an advanced mobile-translating tool, recog-



nizing more than three dozen languages. But it's part of a much bigger trend, with services like Microsoft's Skype Translator instantly turning video-chats into real-time multilingual conversations. Twitter has used the tech giant's Bing translation technology to instantly translate tweets, while Facebook pursues its own

cars on public roads without that restriction.

The company in December announced that it had a fully functioning prototype that's been driving on its test track. It hoped to see the cars on the road in northern California this year, but they would have to have safety drivers and temporary manual controls.

Google also confirmed that it has hired Roush Enterprises Inc., a Detroit-area company that designs and builds prototypes for the auto industry, to build 150 prototype Google autonomous cars.

Urmson said Google is making laser and other sensors for the cars smaller and less costly.

He predicted that the cars would fail at some point on public roads, but said Google's cars have been driven more than 700,000 miles on public roads without causing a crash.

translation efforts.

"I'm passionate about translation," says 26-year-old Cattiau, who has worked at Google the past three-and-a-half years. "With our new app,

we're able to detect the languages being spoken so you don't even have to press the translate button on the phone each time you talk. It's now so much more natural."

While reviewers and users have not had a chance to use the new app, the previous version was largely praised, with CNET calling it "feature-packed" and "extremely versatile."

### Science Matters

## Big question for a giant machine

Physicists hope that a huge underground atom smasher — restarting after an 18-month power upgrade — will reveal what the mysterious "dark matter" is.

### The Large Hadron Collider

International project near Geneva, Switzerland

Galaxies rotate as they do because of heavy, invisible "dark matter"

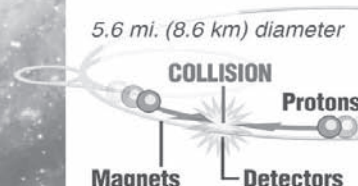
### What is dark matter?

Several different lines of evidence show that the universe is made up of:

- 4.9% ordinary matter (atoms, photons, etc.)
- 26.8% dark matter, possibly large, heavy particles that can pass through regular matter

68.3% "dark energy" that opposes gravity; still a mystery

Source: European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), Los Angeles Times, NASA  
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service



- 1 Ring of magnets accelerates protons to near speed of light
  - 2 Protons collide, become 250,000 times hotter than interior of sun
  - 3 Detectors show particles created in the collision
- Famous "Higgs boson" was found here in 2012



### How it may reveal itself

- 1 Collider will fire protons with twice as much energy as has ever been achieved
- 2 Detectors (like this) may see a few heavy, short-lived particles spray from the proton collisions

### 10<sup>th</sup> Year Death Anniversary

In Loving Memory of Our Beloved

## †Sabino R. Cabrera

We, the family of the late †Sabino R. Cabrera would like to invite all our families, relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> Year Death Anniversary of our beloved's passing unto eternal life.

The following Mass will be offered at Kristo Rai Parish at 6:00 AM from January 14 to January 22, 2015.

On the last day Thursday, January 22, 2015, breakfast will be served immediately after Mass at the Kristo Rai Parish Social Hall.

Your prayers and presence are greatly appreciated.

Thank You – Si Yu'us Ma'ase

The Family

### TECH Q&A

## Connecting an external hard drive to your home network

By STEVE ALEXANDER  
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

**Q: I've been using a "Western Digital My Book Live" external hard drive in my home network. But after buying a new wireless router, I can only find the My Book with my wired desktop PC. The drive is invisible to my Wi-Fi laptop. Here's my setup: I plugged the new router into my existing DSL modem-router, then connected the My Book to the new router. Is it a network address problem? Would it help if I reprogrammed the My Book with a "static" network address that never changes?**

**A:** The disk drive vanished from your laptop because at least one device on your home network has the wrong data address. If you fix that, a larger network overhaul won't be necessary. Every device on a home net-

work has an Internet Protocol (IP) address. But the "My Book Live" hard drive doesn't come with an IP address. Instead, an address is assigned to it by the network's router, which acts as a data traffic cop.

But your network is a special case because it uses two network routers that are connected to each other. In order for that setup to work, both routers must be assigning the same set of IP addresses. If they don't, that would explain why your laptop can't find the My Book device.

Check your original modem-router to find out what range of IP addresses it assigns to other network devices. Make sure that the new router also assigns IP addresses in that range. In addition, make sure that the new router's own IP address falls within that range, and that

its address isn't the same as the address of any other device already in your network.

After that, try connecting your laptop to the My Book by typing "http://mybooklive/UI/" (don't use the quote marks) into the address line of your Web browser. If the My Book has been assigned an appropriate IP address, your laptop should find it.

I recommend to continue using the ever-changing "dynamic" IP addresses in your network. Using permanent "static" IP addresses is complicated and unnecessary.

### MORE SURPRISES

More problems are being reported in response to last week's column about Windows 8 PCs that unexpectedly upgrade to Windows 8.1 (see [tinyurl.com/k6gzwn](http://tinyurl.com/k6gzwn)). The

upgrade appears to happen on PCs set to automatically install Windows updates.

Barbara Bates of Isanti, Minn., said the screen of her two-year-old Dell PC began having problems after the abrupt Windows upgrade.

Robin Kingdon of Perth, Australia, said his two-year-old Asus notebook PC lost its sound after the upgrade.

Both problems appear to be caused by Windows 8 software "drivers" that aren't quite compatible with Windows 8.1. To download new Dell video driver software, go to [tinyurl.com/o34cfft](http://tinyurl.com/o34cfft) and identify your PC model. To check the compatibility of Asus sound driver software, or to replace it, see [tinyurl.com/1876aoq](http://tinyurl.com/1876aoq) and [tinyurl.com/mk3eywa](http://tinyurl.com/mk3eywa).

For fixes for common Windows 8.1 problems, see [tinyurl.com/o8ft5ba](http://tinyurl.com/o8ft5ba).



In Loving Memory of

# †Guadalupe Perez Manglona

December 08, 1932 – January 11, 2015

*She Now Joins Those Who Have Gone Before Her:*

**Father:** †Jose Duenas Perez

**Mother:** †Maria Lizama Perez

**Husband:** †Raimundo H. Manglona

**Brothers and Sisters:** †Rosa P. Alacantara, †Francisco Perez,  
†Maria P. Dydasco, †Ana Perez,  
†Antonio Perez, †Elisita P. Taggart,  
†Rosario P. Guzman, †Vicente Perez

*Her memories will be forever live in the heart of her:*

*Children, Grandchildren, and Great-Grandchildren:*

**David J. & Consolacion D. Sablan** (Vincent E. & Cynthia C. Sablan  
[Michaela, Gabriela], †Maynard G. Sablan,  
Jeffrey J. & Maureen T. Sablan [Jessica, Stasia, Nathan,  
Nicole, Nia David], Angela Marie &  
David Brantley [Hannah, Myah])

**Victoria S. & †Bruce J. Coleman** (Michael J. &  
Heather Coleman, Alithea T. Coleman)

**Patricia A. Sablan & Paul S. Jaramillo**  
(Lisa Denae Montgomery)

**Stephen P. & Merci C. Sablan** (Stephen Elias C. Sablan “Weevo”,  
Valentina Rose C. Sablan & Syl Teregeyo [Lailey Colette],  
Carmen Guadalupe C. Sablan, Mary Lenor C. Sablan)

**Catherine P. Sablan** (Coleen Guadalupe Sablan [Moses],  
Jesse Cruz Camacho, Jr.)

**Christina P. Sablan** (Kalani S. DL Guerrero & Jeffrey Benavente [Jessabel, Jazmin,  
Jeffrey, Jeffrey Lyn], Kollin S. DL Guerrero & †Enrique Naputi [Delores,  
†Korina, Enrique], Casidy S. Cruz [Cody, Joshua])

**James P. Sablan & Antonia Manibusan** (James Dominic “JD” M. Sablan, Samantha M. Sablan)

**Ross H. & Julie O. Manglona** (Christian Manzanares, Julian Manglona, Ian Manglona,  
Tristan Manglona, Ethan Manglona)

**Roddy H. Manglona & Umeko Yamada** (Raimundo Manglona, Isabel Manglona, Roddy Manglona, Jr., Angelica Manglona)

*She will also be missed by numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, godchildren, in-laws and friends.*

Nightly rosary is being prayed at San Jose Church, Oleai at 8:00 PM.

Funeral Services will be held on Monday, January 19, 2014. Her remains will be escorted from  
Nuestra Senora Dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 8:00 am to Mount Carmel Cathedral.

Responso Service will be held upon arrival at the church. Mass of Christian Burial will be  
celebrated at 10:00 am followed by Interment Services at Mount Carmel Cemetery  
where she will be at a peaceful rest.

**Thank you and Si Yu'us Maase**  
**Please join us In Prayers.**

*Children and Family of the late*

†Guadalupe Perez Manglona & †Raimundo Hocog Manglona



## Life & Style

# Salman Rushdie, threatened over book, defends free speech

**BURLINGTON, Vt.** (AP)—Author Salman Rushdie, who lived for years under a death threat after his 1988 book “The Satanic Verses” drew the wrath of Iranian religious leaders, said Wednesday the right to free speech is absolute or else it isn’t free.

Following a speech at the University of Vermont in Burlington, Rushdie addressed the

killings last week of 12 people at the Paris satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo. He said he was angered that, in the aftermath of the shootings, some from both the left and the right began to vilify the victims.

“The French satirical tradition has always been very pointed and very harsh, and still is, you know,” Rushdie said. “The thing that I really resent is the way in which these, our dead comrades ... who died using the same implement that I

use, which is a pen or pencil, have been almost immediately vilified and called racists and I don’t know what else.”

He said some believe speech should be free, but it shouldn’t upset anyone or go too far.

“Both John F. Kennedy and Nelson Mandela use the same three-word phrase which in my mind says it all, which is, ‘Freedom is Indivisible,’” he said. “You can’t slice it up, otherwise it ceases to be freedom. You can dislike Charlie Hebdo. ... But

the fact that you dislike them has nothing to do with their right to speak.”

Rushdie’s visit to the University of Vermont to discuss his writing of his book “Haroun and the Sea of Stories” was planned months ago. But his visit was given urgency by the killings in France by two Islamic extremists who were upset with the writings and art used by Charlie Hebdo.

The publication of Rushdie’s 1988 book “The Satanic Verses”

drew the wrath of Iranian religious leaders for its depiction of the Prophet Muhammad. They issued a religious edict in 1989 calling for his death. The edict was officially lifted in 1998. He now lives in New York.

Nevertheless, security at the Vermont event was heavy; security personnel searched bags and looked under heavy winter coats.

Rushdie didn’t address directly his years living under the threat of death, but he spoke of how the writings of authors who offend powerful people frequently outlive the criticism—even if the artists themselves don’t survive.

He said the role of art is to go to the edge, open the universe and expand minds. But doing that is not easy, and artists can’t occupy a middle ground.

“And so artists who go to that edge and push outwards often find very powerful forces pushing back. They find the forces of silence opposing the forces of speech. The forces of censorship against the forces of utterance,” he said. “At that boundary is that push-and-pull between more and less. And that push and pull can be very dangerous to the artist. And many artists have suffered terribly for that.”

## Onstage, onscreen: Bradley Cooper sets career sights high



In this image released by Warner Bros. Pictures, Bradley Cooper appears in a scene from “American Sniper.”

**NEW YORK** (AP)—On a recent Saturday afternoon, Bradley Cooper took his curtain call at Broadway’s Booth Theater, where he’s starring in “The Elephant Man.” He then had to race to a meeting, conduct an interview for this article, and find time to eat and nap before taking the stage again for his 8 p.m. show.

There’s definitely a lot going on for Cooper, who turned 40 earlier this month. Along with eight Broadway performances a week, he’s busy promoting one of his biggest movies to date, as both actor and producer: Clint Eastwood’s “American Sniper,” in which Cooper transforms himself—to much critical acclaim—into late Navy SEAL marksman Chris Kyle, a real-life personality whom he looks and sounds nothing like.

There’s even a report (way premature, the actor says) that he plans to make his feature directorial debut soon. Is it an exaggeration to say that all in all, this is a pretty big career moment for Cooper?

He responds modestly. “I think the fact that I had a chance to play Chris Kyle and Joseph Merrick (subject of ‘The Elephant Man’) in the same year is huge for me,” he says. “Absolutely.”

It’s certainly a season for cinematic portrayals of real-life characters: Martin Luther King Jr in “Selma” and physicist Stephen Hawking in “The Theory of Everything,” to name just a few. Cooper, who already has two Oscar nominations to his name (for “Silver Linings Playbook” and “American Hustle”) hadn’t portrayed a real person before

and says the responsibility he felt in playing Kyle, who died in 2013 with the legacy of being the most lethal sniper in U.S. military history, was “massive.”

“There’s a family that’s still alive and children that are still alive,” Cooper says. “So this film, if we get it right, it will matter to them forever. For the rest of their lives and their children’s lives, potentially. So that was a huge responsibility.” (There was also the comment Kyle’s father reportedly made to Eastwood: “Disrespect my son and I’ll unleash hell on you.”)

Cooper’s response to the challenge, he says, was “to put a tremendous amount of pressure on myself.” For starters, that meant “gain 40 pounds and literally learn exactly how he spoke.”

He tries to describe the days spent prepping for the film: “Wake up 5 a.m., put on my headphones right away, listen to his voice right away, just to get it in my system,” he recounts. “Ride my motorcycle to the gym, where I have big blowup photos of him.”

Two and a half hours of heavy lifting would follow, staring at those photos and listening to Kyle’s playlist, given to him by the sniper’s widow, Taya. Then two hours at home with a dialectician. Back to the gym for two more hours, then back home for more dialect work, until 8 p.m. “I would do that five days a week,” he says. “Yeah, it was intense.”

Cooper also spent hours listening to every interview Kyle had ever done. Unfortunately, he had no personal memories to go on, only a brief phone conversation.

Kyle was shot and killed at a shooting range in February 2013, by a former Marine he was trying to help.

And so the research was extensive. “What we really cared about was first of all the family believing that it was Chris up there,” Cooper says. “They were very, very positive in that direction. And that meant the world to me.”

Taya Kyle is quick to confirm her approval. “I really don’t know how he did it as well as he did,” she says. “So many of Chris’ friends said it’s almost eerie watching it. I’m eternally grateful. He got the mannerisms and the way he moved and breathed, all those things.”

The actor’s recent success doesn’t surprise the dean of his former acting school; That would be James Lipton, host of Bravo’s “Inside the Actors Studio,” who auditioned Cooper when he was a student at Georgetown.

“The scene he did wasn’t great, but I had a very strong feeling about him,” Lipton says. By the time “Coop,” as he’s called, did his master’s thesis—scenes from “The Elephant Man,” as it happens—Lipton says he thought: “He’s going to be a very important actor.”

Cooper’s Broadway run ends Feb. 22, and he hopes to bring the show to London this summer. As for film, whatever’s next, he doesn’t think it’ll be easy to top “American Sniper.”

“I was just saying to my buddy this morning—if we’re lucky, we’ll get to do this again,” he says. “But it’ll never get better than this.”

## Nicole Kidman shows her silly side in ‘Paddington’

**BEVERLY HILLS, Calif.** (AP)—Nicole Kidman knows most people don’t consider her a comedic actress.

In her 31-year career, her roles have ranged from the morose to the deliciously sadistic. There are a few straight comedies in her resume, but Kidman is the first to admit that she just doesn’t get many offers to do that type of work.

She’s won an Oscar. She’s worked with Stanley Kubrick, Jane Campion, and Lars Von Trier. So how did she end up in a modest role as a delightfully villainous taxidermist in the children’s film “Paddington” with a relatively unknown director at the helm?

The answer is simple: She was asked.

“The desire to run the gamut and be diverse is something you’re taught at drama school,” said Kidman on a recent afternoon at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel. “We’re trained in Shakespeare and then we’re trained in Noël Coward and we’re trained in mime classes. But a lot of times you’re not given the opportunity to explore the things that you’ve cultivated.”

For director Paul King, it was a no-brainer. But it wasn’t Kidman’s 1996 romantic fantasy romp “Practical Magic” that he was thinking of. He’d seen Gus Van Sant’s “To Die For” and knew Kidman had to be his Millicent.

In the film, out Friday, Millicent is a leather-clad, stiletto-wearing femme fatale who will stop at nothing to stuff the iconic talking bear from Darkest Peru and put him in a museum.

“He wrote it for me. I’m not sure if that’s a flattering thing or not,” Kidman laughed.

King, who had mostly worked in British television, knew it was a long shot.

“You should never write for an actor because they’ll just say no. But I did have her in mind,” he said.

The hard part was convincing everyone to actually put the script in front of Kidman. As King describes it, it’s a process of being politely insistent.

Despite all the warnings that Kidman was “never” going to say yes, as soon as she heard the name “Paddington,” she jumped. Kidman had grown up reading Michael Bond’s books in Australia and it just struck a nerve.

Ultimately, King said, she was the easiest person to cast. She signed on in just 12 hours.

“You don’t often see the silly side of Nicole and she’s such a funny, easygoing person,” said King, who really put the actress to the test. On day one, she was hanging upside down on wires and it just got more challenging from there.

“I hope it gets a good response. It’s smart,” said Kidman of the movie, excitedly talking about how the physical comedy of the CG bear makes her two young daughters “squeal with laughter.”

Taken alongside a recent segment on “The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon,” where Kidman charmingly revealed that the host had missed an opportunity to date her years ago (the YouTube video has over 19 million views to date), it might seem as though the actress who once urinated on Zac Efron for a role, is in a new phase of her career.

The past year was not exactly a stellar one for the Oscar-winner either, with middling limited releases like the thriller “Before I Go To Sleep” and the historical drama “The Railway Man,” and the mysterious non-release of “Grace of Monaco” in the United States.



Kidman



# Chris Pratt honored by Harvard theater group

**CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)—**"Guardians of the Galaxy" star Chris Pratt has been named Man of the Year by Harvard University's Hasty Pudding Theatricals.

Pratt also co-stars on NBC's "Parks & Recreation" with Amy Poehler, who was named as Hasty Pudding Woman of the Year last week.

Jason Hellerstein, president of the student group, says, "We vehemently deny that the members of the Hasty Pudding Theatricals are obsessed with Parks & Recreation."

Wednesday's announcement says Pratt became "a bona fide Hollywood heavyweight" in the past year.

Pratt will receive his pudding pot Feb. 6 following a parade through Harvard Square and a roast. Poehler will be honored Jan. 29.

Last year's winners were Helen Mirren and Neil Patrick Harris. Hasty Pudding Theatricals is the nation's oldest undergraduate drama troupe, dating to the late 18th century.



In this July 29, 2014 file photo, actor Chris Pratt attends a screening of "Guardians of the Galaxy" hosted by The Cinema Society and Men's Fitness in New York.

## Jodie Foster is a double award nominee for directing TV

**LOS ANGELES (AP)—**Jodie Foster is up for a pair of awards for directing comedy and drama on television.

The Directors Guild of America announced TV nominees Wednesday for its annual honors,

and Foster's name was called twice: in the drama series category for an episode of "House of Cards" and in the comedy series category for an installment of "Orange Is the New Black."

Other dramatic contenders

include Dan Attias and Lesli Linka Glatter for separate episodes of "Homeland," Cary Fukunaga for "True Detective" and Alex Graves for "Game of Thrones." Competing in the comedy category are Louis

C.K. for "Louie," Mike Judge for "Silicon Valley," Gail Mancuso for "Modern Family" and Jill Soloway for "Transparent."

Film and television winners will be announced at a Feb. 7 ceremony in Beverly Hills.

## Peter Jackson helping to open WWI museum after 'Hobbit' wrap

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—**Director Peter Jackson said Wednesday he's putting his energy into helping launch a museum to commemorate World War I after finishing his "Hobbit" movie trilogy.

If he has any plans for future blockbusters, he's not saying.

Jackson was speaking at his New Zealand post-production facility where he was helping host an event to promote the local film industry. Directors Jane Campion and James Cameron

also attended.

Jackson is a World War I history buff who owns a number of planes from the era.

He said the plan for the Wellington museum was to open during April to mark the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli battle.

He said more galleries would be opened over the coming four years to mark other battles in which New Zealanders fought.

The New Zealand Herald newspaper reported earlier that Jackson had been recruited by

the government to curate the museum, and he was expected to gather aircraft, tanks and other artifacts from private and public collections.

"That's where most of my time is now, which is good," Jackson said Wednesday. "It's fun. And it's free. The exhibits will be very, very interesting, and I'm enjoying it."

Jackson said he was also enjoying getting some rest after finishing the "Hobbit"—although he wasn't entirely done, because

he was still working on an extended version for DVD release.

But he said he was happy to take a break from new film projects for a while.

"It's the first time in five years that I haven't woken up in the morning and had deadlines," he said. "... no phones ringing, screaming 'When are we going to see this? When are we going to do that?' And I'd forgotten what that's like. So I'll let that last for a little bit longer before I destroy it."

## Model who says Cosby sexually abused her meets with police

**LOS ANGELES (AP)—**A model who claims Bill Cosby drugged and sexually abused her at the Playboy Mansion met with Los Angeles police on Wednesday to pursue criminal charges against the comedian over the 2008 incident.

An attorney for Chloe Goins said after the meeting that his client is the first woman accusing Cosby of sexual misconduct whose case may fall within the statute of limitations. More than 15 women have accused Cosby of sexual misconduct, including several who say the comedian drugged and raped them in incidents dating back at least four decades.

Goins did not speak during a press conference Wednesday. Her attorney, Spencer Kuvin, said she came forward after hearing about other women describing abuse by Cosby and realizing she might have a valid criminal case.

An email to Cosby's attorney, Marty Singer, was not immediately returned.

Kuvin declined to discuss

what Goins told detectives but restated her allegations that Cosby drugged her at a 2008 event at the Playboy Mansion. Goins does not know what happened while she was blacked out but Kuvin says she awoke to find herself naked and Cosby over her.

"Ms. Goins and I are here for two reasons: for justice and accountability," Kuvin said.

Goins is at least the second woman to meet with Los Angeles police detectives to recount accusations against Cosby.

Prosecutors rejected filing charges against Cosby based on allegations by Judy Huth, a Riverside County resident who is suing the comedian, alleging he abused her in the early 1970s when she was 15 years old. Huth's lawsuit states the abuse happened at the Playboy Mansion.

Los Angeles police Commander Andrew Smith said that he could not confirm any investigation into Cosby and that sex abuse cases are "extremely confidential."

## 'Interview' star Park glad to switch gears with TV comedy

**PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—**"The Interview" actor Randall Park says he's glad the film was finally released and he's ready to move on to his next role—a suburban dad in an ABC sitcom.

Park, who played North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un in the movie at the center of the Sony hacking incident, was asked at a Television Critics Association meeting Wednesday if he feared any personal fallout.

"I was never worried for my

safety or getting hacked during that process," he said.

What was unsettling, a smiling Park added, was to watch a TV newscast "and they're talking about Kim Jong Un and showing my face."

He said he's excited about his role in ABC's "Fresh Off the Boat," adapted from the memoir by food personality Eddie Huang.

The comedy, about an immigrant Taiwanese family adjusting to life in Florida, debuts Feb. 10.

## Losing a lung is no deterrent for man addicted to smoking

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband, "Fred," lost a lung to cancer 14 years ago due to smoking. He is one of the lucky ones to survive a deadly cancer.

Even though he has only one lung, he continues to smoke "secretly." I have begged, offered in-house treatment, anything to get him to stop, to no avail. What is troublesome is that Fred is in denial. For the last several weeks, he has blamed his coughing and wheezing on "allergies." He also chews nicotine gum nonstop. It's expensive, but he uses it to get his nicotine fix when he's around me, our family and friends.

I am angry, frustrated and sad that Fred has chosen cigarettes over having a chance to live, enjoy his grandchildren and grow old with me. Sometimes I think he doesn't deserve to still be on this earth because he disregards his health after nearly dying from complications after his lung surgery.

Fred is loving, warm, caring and intelligent—except when it comes to his health. What can I do short of leaving him?

MISERABLE IN MINNESOTA

**DEAR MISERABLE:** There is nothing more you can do. Your husband is hopelessly addicted to nicotine and he's incapable of getting away from it.

I doubt you are serious about leaving him, and I wouldn't

suggest it anyway. Try to enjoy the time you have with him, and understand that many smokers go to their graves begging for cigarettes while on their deathbeds. It's not that he doesn't love you or that he loves his cigarettes more. He's HOOKED.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a rent-paying adult tenant who lives at home with my mother. Mom gave a house key to my sister and brother to be used in the event of an emergency. On several occasions they have used their key to enter the house unannounced, startling both me and Mom.

I have asked them to please either knock or use the doorbell and wait to be let in when dropping by unannounced like anyone else would do. My brother has graciously honored my request. My sister thinks that because she was given a key she has the right to unlock the door and come into our home whenever she wants to.

I find what she's doing intrusive and upsetting. How can I get her to respect my wishes and honor my privacy in my own home? Mom agrees with me, but is reluctant to ask my sister to return the key.

ADULT TENANT IN CALIFORNIA

**DEAR ADULT TENANT:** Your sister may feel that because the house technically belongs to your mother (in spite of the

### DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



fact that you are paying rent) that she doesn't have to respect your wishes. Unless your mother is willing to assert herself and tell your sister she feels the same way you do, and if it happens again she wants her house key returned, the problem will continue. At this point, the ball is in Mom's court.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



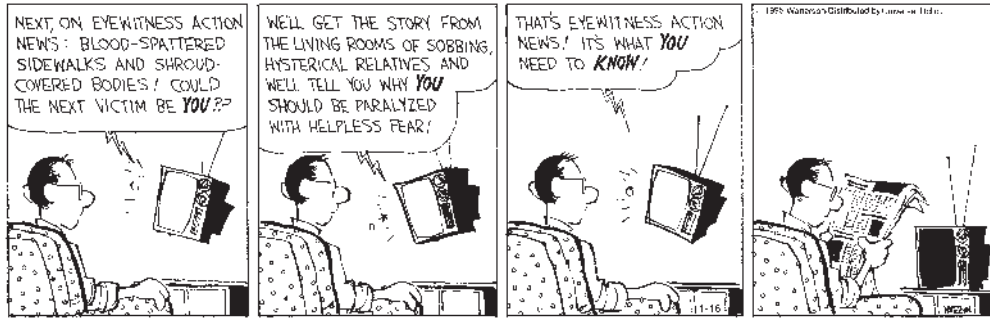
# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

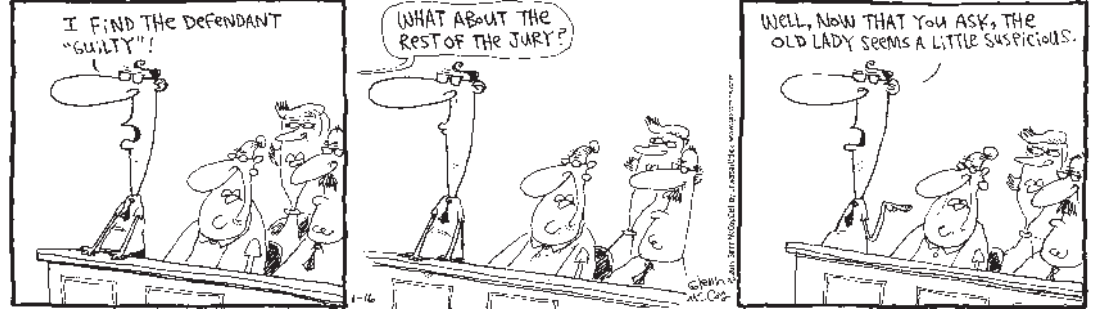
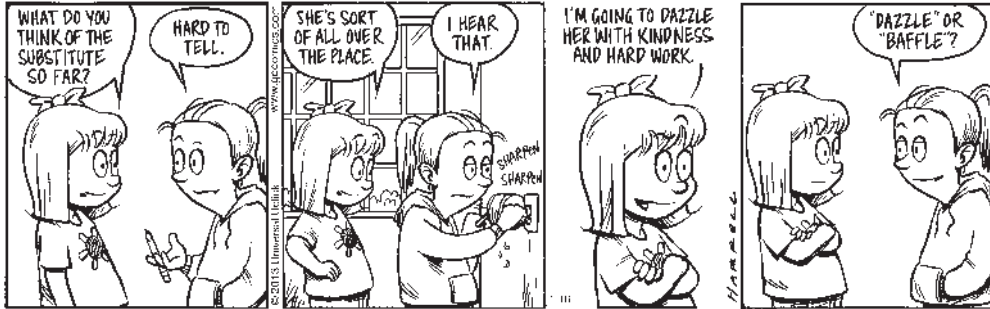


## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

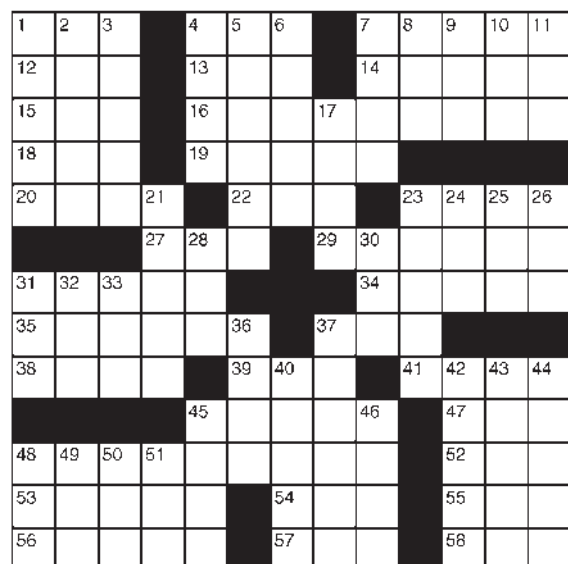
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Mas-seuse's work-place  
4 Part of TGIF  
7 Haunted house sounds  
12 Sigma follower  
13 Sigma preceder  
14 Bert's roomie  
15 Mel of baseball lore  
16 Museum on wheels  
18 Carnival city  
19 "Forget it!"  
20 Slam-dance  
22 Took top honors  
23 Aspic maker's need  
27 Charged bit  
29 Big-enough fish  
31 Straight-en
- DOWN**
- 1 With 37-Down, small, dark seabird  
2 Barbecue site  
3 Ford and Lincoln  
4 Persia, now  
5 Pitched  
6 Language of Africa  
7 Cat call  
8 Scepter  
9 Black bird  
10 Zilch  
11 Witness  
17 Tony Shalhoub TV series  
21 Peak periods  
23 Daily trio  
24 Choose  
25 Allow  
26 Parched  
28 Inseparable  
30 Detergent brand  
31 Sandy's reply  
32 Position  
33 Lemieux milieu  
36 Did the crawl  
37 See 1-Down  
40 Reason for a food recall  
42 Bid  
43 Singer Mariah  
44 Money of Norway  
45 Heart of the matter  
46 Look for  
48 Awful  
49 Dumb-found  
50 Once around  
51 — for tat

Solution time: 26 mins.



Yesterday's answer 1-16



## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18- only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Kate Moss, 41; Richard T. Jones, 43; Debbie Allen, 65; John Carpenter, 67.

**Happy Birthday:** Get everything in writing, and don't make promises you may not be able to keep. Sticking to tried-and-true methods will eliminate stress and keep you moving forward, regardless of what others do. Don't let anything or anyone sidetrack you when you have so much to gain if you remain devoted to the goals you have set. Your numbers are 3, 12, 18, 26, 35, 41, 48.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Your versatility will help you avoid conflict. Express your opinion with flair and optimism, and you will gain support that will help you move forward. Don't be discouraged by negativity or those who lack vision. Negotiate and sign contracts. ★★★★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Focus on getting ahead. Network, discuss your ideas, and be the one to mastermind your way into the positions you want. It's what you do, not what you dream about, that will make the difference to your future prospects. ★★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Get involved in organizations that can help you get ahead. Touching base with people you have worked with in the past will lead to options you hadn't considered. Love is in the stars, and making plans for playtime will improve your personal life. ★★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Impulsive decisions or spending will lead to worry and stress. Consider an unusual way to

satisfy your needs. Learn from watching others. Doing things differently will help you cut corners and improve your financial status. ★★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** You cannot buy love, but you can afford to entertain people who have something to offer in return. It's the effort and the interest you show in others that will bring you the returns you are looking for. ★★★★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Get your domestic situation in order. Take care of your responsibilities before someone complains. An interesting job opportunity is apparent, but it will take some finagling in order to meet the requirements you need to become successful. ★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Keep the peace. Offer love, respect and hope to the people around you, and you will make a difference to not only your life, but to others as well. Love is in the stars, and special romantic plans will enhance your personal life. ★★★★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Take care of your health, wealth and your domestic environment. Take a different approach to the way you do things at home, and you will be surprised how much better things work out for you. Defuse a negative situation that could escalate quickly. ★★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** A competitive challenge will get you moving and motivated. You'll impress someone who can improve your personal or professional position. A past relationship will remind you of something you want to do again. ★★

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Do whatever it takes to enhance your reputation. Socialize, network and show your compassionate side to the people you deal with. It's how you appear to others that will make a difference to your success. ★★★

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Your wish to be yourself and do your own thing will be granted. A job opportunity will bring you greater stability and encourage you to set a strategy that will help you advance more. Romance is encouraged. ★★★★★

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** You will face uncertainty due to a difference of opinion. Watch what others do, and size up your situation carefully before making your move. You are best to play it safe. Protect your position and your reputation. ★★

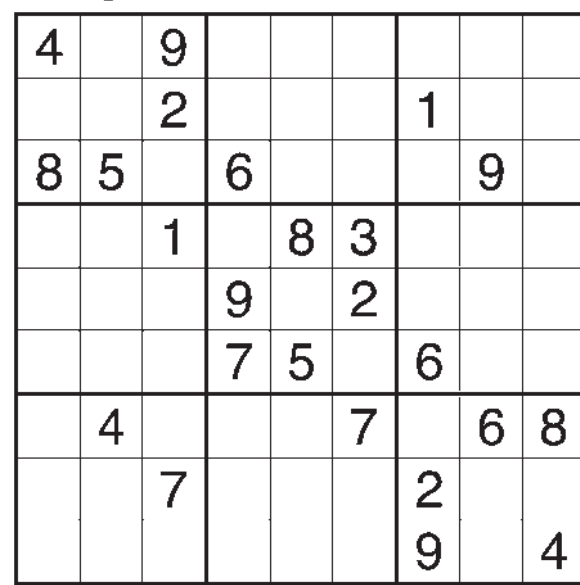
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## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



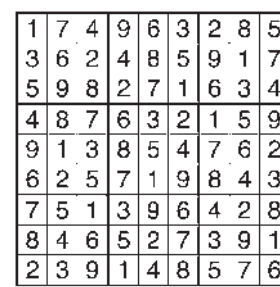
Difficulty Level ★★★★★

1/16

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

1/17

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CHRIS HEMSWORTH: PEOPLE'S SEXIEST MAN ALIVE Sol.: 8 letters



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Action, Actor, Aussie, Australian, Away, Blackhat, Blue Eyes, Bulman, Cash, Chad, Chase, Craig, Deal, Eckert, Elsa, Eric, Heartthrob, Home, Hyde, India Rose, James, Jed, Jones, Kale, Kid, Kim, Leonie, Liam, Luke, Melbourne, Norse, Owen, Pataky, Red Dawn, Roles, Rush, Saddle, Sasha, Star Trek, Surf, Talent, The Avengers, Thor, Tristan, Twins, Vacation, Ward, Woods, World Yesterday's Answer: Blue

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PIC Saipan Management

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- Coordinating between departments and operating units in resolving day-to-day administrative and operational problems.
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- Preparing business correspondence (often using word processing, spreadsheet, and presentation computer software).
- Sending faxes.
- Managing files.
- Research and the identification of key data sources.
- Performing multifaceted general office support.
- Preparing meeting minutes, meeting notes and internal support materials.
- Sending and receiving forms for the company.
- Assisting in all day-to-day operation matters.
- Other related duties.

**Education/Experience Needed:**

- Good customer service, communication, and interpersonal skills.
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- Must have excellent computer skills, using Word, Excel and Powerpoint.
- Fluency in speaking, reading, and writing in English and Mandarin.
- Knowledge of accounting principles and practices.
- Minimum 2 years experience in English/Mandarin translation preferred.
- Minimum 2 years experience in overall job duties and document handling.

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Thank you, Si Yu'os Ma'ase, and Olomwaay for your interest in Best Sunshine!

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Opinion

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KagHS JROTC does well in drill competition



# Fiery Brady leads Pats vs Colts in AFC title game



**FOXBOROUGH, Mass.**

(AP)—Sometimes Tom Brady sits on the bench after a series and confers quietly with offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels.

Other times he paces the sideline unleashing expletives.

From student to screamer and everything in between, the super-competitive Brady does whatever he can to come out with a win.

"I don't think I ever lose track of plays or things that I need to do to help coordinate our offense when we're on the field," he said Wednesday, talking calmly at a podium. "I just think the emotional part is a really important part for me and I think that's always been a part of the way that I play."

That emotion is sure to be on display Sunday night when Brady tries to lead the New England Patriots to their sixth Super Bowl in 14 seasons when they host the Indianapolis Colts in the AFC championship game.

Passion has been part of Brady's game throughout his 15-year NFL career.

He's head-butted opponents and teammates, trash-talked defenders and yelled at his own players and coaches. This season, lip readers could easily spot the curse word he repeatedly let fly in the waning moments of a loss to the Green Bay Packers.

"I need to be emotional out there to play at my highest," Brady said. "I try to rest up all week and I'm actually pretty mellow most of the time, as you guys know. It's just for those three hours on Sunday



AP  
New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady (12) runs through a drill with teammates during NFL football practice at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Mass., Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2015. The Patriots face the Indianapolis Colts in the AFC Championship game on Sunday.

that you get to let it rip, which is really, I think, when you can be yourself."

That's worked very well.

Brady is 160-47 in the regular season and 20-8 in the postseason. He's thrown for more completions and touchdowns than any other quarterback in postseason history.

So if his teammates must listen to his shouting - in frustration or as motivation - it's a small price to pay for so much success.

"That's just Tom," defensive tackle Vince Wilfork said.

"Everything he does, he wants it to be perfect. He strives for greatness."

"Tom does whatever he feels he needs to do for us to win," safety Devin McCourty said. "Nothing Tom does surprises us."

And his intensity is infectious.

"When you see Tom do it," said tight end Rob Gronkowski, a very demonstrative player himself, "it definitely gets you going."

Brady may be confident and competitive, but he also gets

nervous.

With Sunday's game determining if his season will continue or end, the butterflies should be there.

"That's part of playing sports. Being in a competitive situation like we are, I don't think that ever goes away," he said. "You have your vision of the way you want things to turn out on a particular play or scheme or something like that and if it does, great. If it doesn't happen the way you want it to, which is most of the time, you've got to figure out something to do."

"I think that's where a lot

of the nerves come into play, the anxiousness of just the anticipation of what's going to happen versus what we've prepared for."

The Patriots (13-5) are preparing for the Colts (13-6) after overcoming two 14-point deficits to beat the Baltimore Ravens 35-31 in a divisional game.

New England routed Indianapolis 42-20 in the regular season, but the Colts are 7-1 since then.

"All the games take on a little bit of a different feel," Brady said. "Any time you play a team a second time around, you hope

you can go in there and do a lot of the same things that you were successful with and, obviously, they know that too, so that's always the chess match."

One thing that won't change is Brady's intensity.

"He'll do whatever he can, whatever is in his power, to encourage us to play better, to motivate himself to play better and at the end of the day, for us to win the game," special teams captain Matthew Slater said. "Whatever that takes, if that's him yelling at us, going crazy, then so be it."

Why does he behave like that?

"My wife asks the same thing. She says, 'What's your problem?'" Brady said. "But I get pretty edgy. I just think there's a high level of pressure every week."

There wasn't much on Wednesday, when he casually answered reporters' questions. But he did slip into his Sunday slang in one unguarded moment when asked about his nerves this week.

"Sometimes I'm in a good mood, sometimes I'm in a (expletive) mood - bad mood. Sorry," he said on live television, then laughed.

Then he was told the broadcast might be on a seven-second delay.

"Oh, is it?" Brady said. "Good."

## Mariota says he's going to NFL

**TEXAS** (AP)—Heisman Trophy winner Marcus Mariota, whose bold moves and leadership on the field brought the Ducks to the brink of a national championship before falling short, is leaving Oregon early for the NFL.

Mariota announced his long-awaited decision to forgo his senior season on Oregon's website. The team said he filed paperwork on Wednesday, a day before the NFL deadline.

"I will miss being with my teammates," he said in a statement. "Being a part of this team was something special that I will always treasure."

Mariota has been the humble leader of Oregon's high-flying offense for three seasons. This season, the Ducks (13-2) defeated Florida State at the Rose Bowl in college football's first playoffs, but fell 42-20 to Ohio State in Monday night's national championship game.

The 6-foot-4 dual threat from Hawaii won every major award he qualified for, start-

ing with the Heisman, as well as AP Player of the Year, the Maxwell and Walter Camp awards and Pac-12 Offensive Player of the Year. He set a conference record for most touchdowns in a single season with 58; 42 via pass, 15 on the run and a touchdown catch.

His passing touchdowns set a Pac-12 single-season record. He also set the conference's career mark for career touchdowns with 136.

He threw at least one touchdown pass in all 41 college games he played in at Oregon, starting in every one of his appearances. And he's one of just four quarterbacks in FBS history to pass for more than 10,000 yards and run for more than 2,000 in his career.

"It's been an honor to watch Marcus develop over the last four years, and I'm excited to see what his future holds," Oregon coach Mark Helfrich said in a statement. "He's given this program everything we could have asked, and he'll be the

standard by which others are judged. Mahalo."

Led by Mariota, Oregon finished No. 2 in this season's final AP rankings. Overall, the Ducks ranked third in the nation in total offense with an average of 547 yards per game. The Ducks' passing offense under Mariota was ranked 10th nationally with an average of 312.5 yards a game. Mariota's passer efficiency rating (181.7) topped the nation.

Mariota was known for his steady demeanor from the start. Off the field, he was shy and unassuming, but he stayed on the field following every game to shake hands and pose for pictures.

Mariota said before Monday's season finale that he would trade his Heisman for a national championship, but it wasn't to be. In the final game he threw for 333 yards and two touchdowns.

"My main focus was to be a great teammate," he said following the game. "That's all I hoped to accomplish. I don't really care about legacies."

## SIDEBAR

### 49ers promote Tomsula to head coach

**SAN FRANCISCO** (AP)—Jim Tomsula made his modest head coaching start in NFL Europe, then landed as the 49ers' top man nearly a decade later.

San Francisco promoted its longtime defensive line coach to head coach Wednesday, going with a familiar face following a national search that took more than two weeks and ended right in house.

The well-liked Tomsula is set to be formally introduced Thursday in a news conference at Levi's Stadium.

"I'm a football coach. I'm Jim nobody from nowhere," Tomsula said in 2010.

Tomsula replaces Jim Harbaugh, who parted ways with the Niners on Dec. 28 in what the team called a "mutual decision." Harbaugh was introduced as Michigan's new coach two days later following a successful four-year stint during which the 49ers reached

three straight NFC championship games and a Super Bowl.

"After conducting a thorough coaching search, and meeting with a number of outstanding candidates, Jim Tomsula clearly is the right man to lead this team," CEO Jed York said in a statement. "Jim is a great teacher and a tremendous mentor who conducts himself with great class and integrity."

### Jack Del Rio new Raiders coach

In California, the Oakland Raiders hired Denver defensive coordinator Jack Del Rio as their new head coach on Wednesday in hopes that the Bay Area native who grew up cheering for the Raiders can return the team to its glory days.

A person with knowledge of the deal confirmed on condition of anonymity that Del Rio signed a four-year deal to

replace interim coach Tony Sparano. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because an official announcement from the team wasn't expected until Thursday.

Del Rio becomes Oakland's ninth head coach since the start of the 2003 season. The Raiders have the NFL's worst record in that span, having failed to produce a single winning season or playoff berth.

Del Rio replaces Sparano, who was elevated from offensive line coach during the past season to replace the fired Dennis Allen and had hoped to keep the job. Oakland went 3-9 under Sparano after losing the first four games under Allen.

The Raiders interviewed at least seven candidates but only Del Rio got a formal second interview. He emerged as the favorite after Denver's season ended Sunday with a playoff loss to Indianapolis.



# Spurs snap Hornets' five-game win streak



**CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)**—Manu Ginobili had 27 points on 10-of-14 shooting and San Antonio beat Charlotte, 98-93, to snap the Hornets' winning streak at five games.

Danny Green scored 18 points and Tim Duncan added 14 points and 10 rebounds to help the defending champion Spurs beat the Hornets for the eighth straight time.

Ginobili had a key driving layup and a 3-pointer late in the fourth quarter after the Hornets cut the Spurs' lead to one with 4 minutes to play.

Kemba Walker had 28 points on 9-of-24 shooting after averaging 30.2 points during the Hornets' winning streak, Hornets center Bismack Biyombo had 12 points, 15 rebounds and five blocked shots filling in for Al Jefferson. Lance Stephenson returned from a 14-game absence due to a pelvic sprain and had eight points in 19 minutes.

## Hawks 105, Celtics 91

In Boston, DeMarre Carroll and Jeff Teague each scored 22 points to help the Atlanta Hawks win their 10th straight game, 105-91 over the Boston Celtics on Wednesday night.

Paul Millsap added 18 points and 10 rebounds for Eastern Conference-leading

Atlanta, 31-8 overall and 15-5 on the road. The Hawks have their first double-digit winning streak since winning 11 in a row early in the 1997-98 season. They also have won 10 straight on the road, the longest streak in club history.

## Warriors 104, Heat 89

In Oakland, Stephen Curry made seven 3-pointers and finished with 32 points and Golden State overwhelmed undermanned Miami for its eighth straight victory.

With a strained left hamstring sidelining Heat star Dwyane Wade, the NBA-leading Warriors (31-5) mowed down Miami the way they have most opponents recently. Golden State has won by an average of 19.8 points during its current streak.

Chris Bosh had 26 points and seven rebounds but couldn't carry the Heat alone.

## Wizards 105, Bulls 99

In Chicago, Paul Pierce had 22 points and Washington beat Chicago, despite Derrick Rose's season-high 32 points for the Bulls.

John Wall scored 10 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter. Bradley Beal added 17, and the Wizards knocked off the Central division leaders for the second time in six days.

Washington trailed by as much as 11 in the first half but outscored Chicago 32-19 in the



AP  
San Antonio Spurs' Tim Duncan (21) beats Charlotte Hornets' Lance Stephenson (1) in a battle for a loose ball during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Charlotte, N.C., Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2015.

third quarter to take a seven-point lead to the fourth.

**Pelicans 105, Pistons 94**  
In Auburn Hills, Anthony Davis

had 27 points and 10 rebounds as New Orleans handed Detroit only its second loss in 11 games.

The Pelicans were missing Jrue Holiday (ankle), but easily picked up their second win in five games. Tyreke Evans added 18 points, nine assists and eight rebounds.

Brandon Jennings had 19 points for the Pistons, and Greg Monroe had 16 points and eight rebounds.

## Grizzlies 103, Nets 92

In New York, Zach Randolph had 20 points and 14 rebounds and Memphis beat slumping Brooklyn in the Grizzlies' first matchup against former coach Lionel Hollins.

Hollins' new team dropped its seventh straight.

Marc Gasol and Courtney Lee added 18 points apiece for the Grizzlies, who began working newly acquired Jeff Green into one of the Western Conference's top teams.

## Magic 120, Rockets 113

In Orlando, Victor Oladipo had 32 points, Nik Vucevic added 25 and 12 rebounds and Orlando rallied to beat Houston.

Houston led 85-84 entering the fourth quarter, but was outscored 36-28 in the final 12 minutes.

Elfrid Payton and Channing Frye each added 15 points for

Orlando.

James Harden had 26 points and 10 assists for Houston.

## Raptors 100, 76ers 84

In Toronto, Kyle Lowry had 18 points and 12 assists and DeMar DeRozan returned from a groin injury to score eight of his 20 points in the fourth quarter in Toronto's victory over Philadelphia.

Amir Johnson had 10 points and a season-high 16 rebounds, Lou Williams added 19 points and Jonas Valanciunas had 12 to help Toronto improve to 7-0 against Atlantic Division opponents.

Michael Carter-Williams scored a season-high 29 points for Philadelphia.

## Nuggets 114, Mavericks 107

In Denver, Ty Lawson had 29 points and 12 assists to help Denver beat Dallas for its fifth straight victory.

Kenneth Faried scored four of his 22 points down the stretch and grabbed 14 rebounds.

Dallas coach Rick Carlisle gave three of his best players the night off after an overtime victory Tuesday night in Sacramento. Dirk Nowitzki, Tyson Chandler and Rajon Rondo rested while Raymond Felton, Richard Jefferson and Greg Smith started. J.J. Barea led the Mavericks with 17 points.

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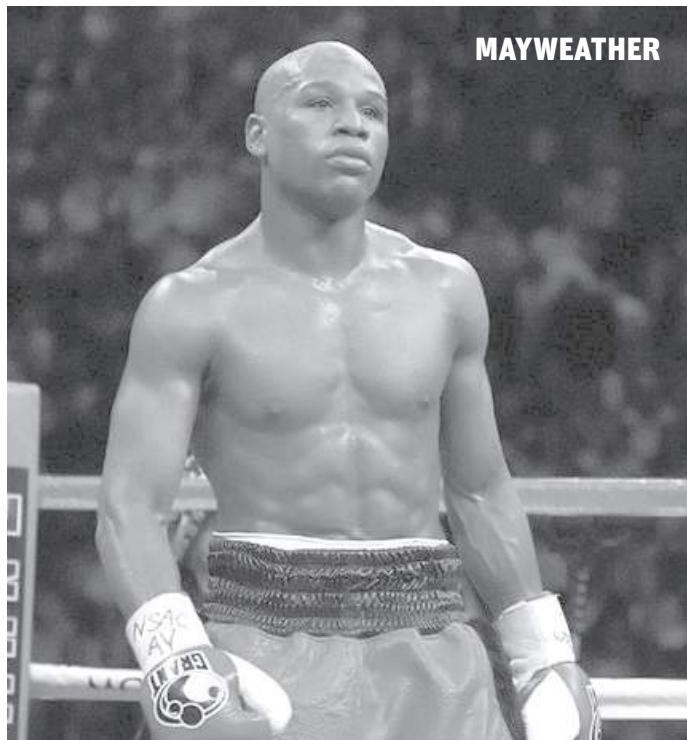
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**DIAL**

*Rent-to-Own*



# Arum: Pacquiao agrees to terms for Mayweather fight



**LAS VEGAS** (AP)—Manny Pacquiao flew to Los Angeles on

Wednesday, preparing for a meeting with contestants of the Miss Universe pageant. Whether he has an even bigger date on May 2 seems entirely up to Floyd Mayweather Jr.

Promoter Bob Arum said Pacquiao has agreed to all terms for what would be boxing's richest fight ever, a bout with Mayweather that fans have been demanding for five years.

The question now is whether the long-reluctant Mayweather will finally sign on the dotted line for what could be an astonishing \$120 million payday for the fighter who flaunts his money better than anyone.

"Your guess is as good as mine," Arum told The Associated Press. "I don't want to be antagonistic and say he's not on board and not going to sign. The

representation is that he is on board with this."

Arum said negotiations with Mayweather's representatives over the past few weeks resulted in agreements on everything from the date and site of the fight (MGM Grand in Las Vegas) to purse split (reportedly 60-40 in Mayweather's favor) to the type of gloves the boxers will wear.

But Mayweather has yet to personally agree to the fight, and the possibility remained that Arum was publicly discussing Pacquiao agreeing to terms to try to up the pressure on the unbeaten boxer to sign.

"We're waiting for Mayweather to sign a document saying, 'Yeah,'" Arum said.

Just what Mayweather is thinking remains unclear. Though he declared on Showtime last month that he wanted the fight, he rarely speaks to the media between fights and his manager, Al Haymon, almost

never speaks publicly.

Mayweather put out pictures of himself in front of a private jet and his new cars this week along with a picture of his Las Vegas mansion, but said nothing about the Pacquiao fight on social media.

Arum said the negotiations have been at the highest levels, and Pacquiao agreed to all the demands by the Mayweather team.

"We took our stands on certain issues, but essentially we acquiesced on most things," Arum said.

Arum said he planned to meet with Pacquiao on Thursday in Los Angeles to formally get his fighter's signature on the terms of the bout. Pacquiao flew from the Philippines on his way to judge the Miss Universe pageant on Jan. 25 in Florida.

Arum said the fight would be held at the MGM, where Mayweather has fought exclusively for years. The 15,000-seat arena

would be scaled for a \$40 million live gate. He said with pay-per-view revenues, the bout could generate \$200 million.

With a 60-40 split, that would mean a potential \$120 million payday for Mayweather and his team and \$80 million for Pacquiao and his promoter. Both would be record purses for fighters.

Mayweather has resisted a Pacquiao fight for five years, first claiming Pacquiao would not agree to drug testing and later saying he wasn't worth facing him in the ring. But Arum said Pacquiao has long since agreed to the testing, and the pressure has built on Mayweather to come to terms on the bout.

Odds makers quickly put out lines Wednesday in this gambling city favoring Mayweather in the bout. Both the Westgate LV Superbook and William Hill made him about a 2 1/2-to-1 favorite in man-to-man betting.

## 8 teams show interest in UFO caging

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A total of eight teams in the over 21 and over 40 divisions have so far showed interest in joining the 2015 United Filipino Organization Basketball League, which is tentatively set to open next month.

League organizers are aiming to open the 2015 season on Feb. 22 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Assembly time is at 7am with the traditional parade of teams to follow once all competing squads are complete.

UFO president and league coordinator Bong Malasarte, after a recent meeting with UFO sports coordinators, said five teams have expressed interest in the over 21 division, while three have so far reserved spots in the 40-up class.

The other two divisions are U15 and U20. Each team

is allowed to field in 12 players.

The following are the entrance fees per division: \$350 (U15), \$400 (U20), \$600 (over 21) and \$550 (40-up). The fees are inclusive of electricity and usage of the gym.

The opening game will be between U15 teams with the 40-up squads following suit. The next match will be in the U20 division, while a 21-up contest will close out the day's hostilities.

Interested coaches can still sign up their respective teams and form the best 12-member squad to complete their respective rosters.

For more information, call or text Malasarte at 2875525, Edward Manalili at 4834337, Pepe Crisostomo at 4831997, Pete Reyes at 9897317, and Marlon Regaton at 9899836 or email at ufo.saipan@gmail.com.



## SONICS

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the unbeaten Rollers 1 (4-0), Dream Team (3-1) and Ol'Aces (3-1). Kagman Risers (2-2), Rollers 2 (2-2), and Sun Palace (0-4) complete the division.

Rollers 1 was scheduled to meet the Ol'Aces in the second boys U19 division match last night and results of the game were unavailable at press time. Also set for last night was the women's division pairing between the undefeated Armat ech (6-0) and Shirley's Coffee Shop (4-2).

Meanwhile, in last Tuesday's women's tiff, Kanoa Resort downed Sun Palace Hotel, 37-29.

Kanoa snapped a five-game losing skid and gained its second victory against the same team. Sun Palace is still winless in seven matches.

Kelsey Lizama top-scored for Kanoa with her 12 points and drew 8 markers each from Rose Jones and Jocelyn Lacay. Marlene Lumabi registered 11 points to pace Sun Palace.

## THURSDAY GAME

**Sonics 86**—De Guzman 18, Manzano 11, Aranda 10, Alegre 10, Rabasto 10, Flores 10, Dela Rosa 6, Ogasawara 2.

**Rollers 3 34**—Ogumoro 11, Arceo 8, Factor 5, Pangelinan 3, Mamaril 3, Yu 2, Cruz 2.

**Scoring by halves:** 48-15, 86-69.

## TUESDAY GAME

**Kanoa Resort 37**—Lizama 12, Jones 8, Lacay 8, Iriarte 2, Ngirausui 2, Agulto 2.

**Sun Palace 29**—Lumabi 11, Avelino 8, Abadilla 7, Castro 5.

**Scoring by halves:** 23-8, 37-29.

## Co-ed grass v'ball tournament Saturday



Two-person teams are invited to join this Saturday's NMIVA Reverse Co-ed Grass Tournament at the Navy Hill court.

Registration starts at 7:30am

on the day of the event and is open to players 18 years old and above. Games start at 8am until sundown.

The entrance fee is \$25 per player and proceeds, after all the expenses, will benefit the Northern Mariana Islands

Volleyball Association's youth development programs and fund the planned overseas trip of the CNMI national teams.

Games are unique since the nets are set at women's height that's why male players are

not allowed to spike in front of a chalked 10-foot line designated on each side of the court. Men also cannot jump serve.

For more information, email John Nekaifes at nekaifes-john@yahoo.com or Charness "Chenny" Lizama at lcharness@yahoo.com. (Jon Perez)

## NMSA

From Page 32

personnel will be taking care of the maintenance of the track since it is the one managing and operating the Oleai Sports Complex.

"We will clean the surface every three to four months to keep dust and other unnecessary materials from sticking on the new track. We want the track to last longer this time," said Rogolifoi.

The decade-old facility are now covered with black patches and bubbles, making it dangerous for public use.

NMSA is hoping to begin the track resurfacing in late January

or February. The association is aiming to open the facility either by April or May in time for several events organized by Northern Marianas Athletics.

NMA is also planning to bid for the hosting rights of the 2017 Micronesian Athletics Championships, while Saipan will also host the 2021 Pacific Mini Games.

"I want to inform the public that the track will be closed once the resurfacing starts and will remain closed during the entire process," said Rogolifoi.

At least two months are needed for putting the adhesive and laying out the track. The winning contractor needs to make sure the adhesive dries accord-

ingly before putting down the new rubber surface.

Rogolifoi also reminded football players, once the new surface is in place, to remove their cleats when they are about to cross the track. League organizers could also put a cover on the players' way to the pitch to protect the new rubber surface.

Rogolifoi also clarified that the construction manager, who will oversee the entire project, will be locally hired, while the expert is the one that they are going to tap off-island. The expert can either come from any European country or the U.S.

The expert will see if resur-

facing is done according to the standards and procedure of the International Association of Athletics Federations. NMSA is trying to get the Oleai track, the only eight-lane Level II facility in the Micronesian region, to its original IAAF certification.

The new track oval, once completed, will have a light blue color and not the usual pinkish-red hue.

NMSA, aside from resurfacing the track, will also raise the four-foot fence to six so that children can no longer climb over and to avoid accidents.

A Community Development Block Grant from NMHC is funding the resurfacing of the track.

## JONES

From Page 32

er's choice and moved to third on a Jared Camacho double. Bansil later scored on a passed ball that sparked that 8-run scoring binge.

Jerome Delos Santos fled out to center for the second out. Pete Tomokane doubled and later crossed home plate on a double by Brian Camacho, who made it 7-1 on a Cruz single.

Cruz ended the Yankees' scoring in the fourth on a Ben Flores error. David Camacho was out number three on a 5-3 putout play.

The Yankees scored five more runs in the eighth to finally put the game out of reach.

Tomokane went perfect at the plate, 4-for-4, with a double, while Delos Santos had four singles in six times at bat. Cruz also went 4-for-6, all singles.

Manny Cabrera, JP Sablan,

and Franco Flores alternated in pitching duties for the Yankees.

Cabrera pitched four complete innings, including three shutout, holding the North Starz to one run on two hits with three strikeouts and one walk.

Sablan pitched two innings in relief and was tagged with three runs on three hits, while striking out two and walking one. Flores finished the last two innings and struck out five, while giving up no runs on one hit.

Action continues tonight with the Jets taking on the Falcons at 7pm also at the "Tan Ko" baseball field.

In other news, SBL coordinator Tony Rogolifoi said they are looking for a sponsor that would help them fix the lights of the scoreboard at the Palacios ballfield. Interested companies or persons should get in touch with Rogolifoi at the Gilbert Ada Gymnasium.



# 3 division titles up for grabs in futsal tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



The 2014 SSS Christmas Youth Futsal Tournament will conclude tomorrow with six teams battling for the three division titles at stake at the TSL Sports Complex.

Team Betde takes on the Lil' Rascals in the first championship match at 4:30 pm.

Team Betde is slightly favored in the title game, as it held the best record (4-1-1 win-draw-loss) in the double-round robin elimination, while the Lil' Rascal will enter the winner-take-all finale coming off a loss in their previous game.

Orange Rangers defeated the Lil' Rascals, 7-5, in the final day of the elimination to barge into the win column the latter dropped four earlier games and drew one. The Lil' Rascals ended up with a 3-1-2 slate to place second in the team standings. Sisig United (2-1-3) completed the field.

Merrick Toves led Orange Rangers' upset of the Lil' Rascal as he scored five goals. Kirt



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Real Crispy Pata's Christopher Aninzo uses his body to protect the ball against an Orange Rangers defender during their game in the boys U15 division of the 2014 SSS Christmas Youth Futsal Tournament last weekend at the TSL Sports Complex. Real Crispy Pata will battle Astig Futsal for the division crown tomorrow.

Andon and Daniel Mar Pablo nailed the two other goals for Orange Rangers, while Jerlyn Castillo paced the Lil' Rascals with her two goals. Taka Borja, Katherine Magat, and Go Sekiguchi tallied one goal apiece for the Lil' Rascals.

In the second title match of the night—the girls U15 fi-

nale between Lady Blues and Matansa at 5:30pm—the former has the edge based on its record in the elimination round.

Lady Blues topped the division with its 5-0-1 record, while Matansa had the second best mark at 4-1-1.

Though Lady Blues had the advantage record-wise, the op-

posing teams are even head-to-head with Matansa avenging its first round loss to the former earlier this year.

Girly Flowers & Rainbows and Orange Rangers joined the finalists in the girls U15 division and the bottom two squads played in the final elimination round matches

last Sunday. Girly Flowers & Rainbows ended the elimination with a rout of Orange Rangers, 11-1. Mark Kay Alferos had a hat-trick in Girly Flowers & Rainbows' demolition of Orange Rangers, while Chevy Kate Alipio, Chloe Salvosa, and Guinevere Borja added two each,

and Renita Fleming and Gillian Villagomez chipped in one apiece.

In the boys U15 division, Astig Futsal won its finals preview against Real Crispy Pata last Sunday, 1-0.

Anthony Fruit scored the lone goal for Astig Futsal, which finished the elimination with a 5-1-0 record. Real Crispy Pata ended up with a 4-2-1 mark. The two finalists had a draw in their first meeting and will settle all scores in the 6:30pm finale tomorrow.

Orange Rangers and Matansa Blazers completed the boys U15 field with the latter winning its last match in the tournament against the former, 16-1.

Evan Belcher went all out in his final game in the tournament, dropping five goals. Chad Shankweiller, Davy Laxa, JC Piring, and Jherico Tiamzon contributed two goals apiece, while Taka Borja had one for Matansa, which wrapped up the elimination round with a 2-0-4 record. Orange Rangers were winless in the division and got its lone goal against Matansa from Jhoey Noble.

## Noetzel to hold goalkeeper mini camp for MPU

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



Former Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Johann Noetzel will be in town this weekend to conduct a goalkeeper mini camp for MP United Football Club.

MP United technical director Norman Del Rosario said Noetzel will hold the goalkeeper mini camp for two days at the Oleai Sports Complex Field with the Saturday and Sunday sessions beginning at 9am.

"The program will be focusing on the four major components of goalkeeping: technical, tactical, psychological, and physical training. Johann's training sessions are challenging and fast-paced to replicate in-game situations. It will really

help our goalkeepers this coming season," Del Rosario said.

"In addition, we will also have video session on saves analysis, training standards, and others. These are the opportunities that MP United FC is looking for our players and they could learn a lot from Johann, who already experienced playing college and pro soccer," Del Rosario added.

Noetzel played for the five-time national champion Seattle Pacific University in the NCAA and earned Pacific Coast Conference Player of the Year and NCAA All-American honors. After his collegiate career, he played for Aston Villa in the English Premier League and the Dallas Burn in the Major League Soccer.

He also worked as a goalkeeper coach for Cal State San Marcos before coming to the CNMI to serve as NMIFA's technical director for about two years. The

36-year-old also played for the Blue Ayuyus in the Asian Football Confederation 2014 Challenge Cup Qualifiers in Nepal and in the team's historic win over Macau, 2-1, in last year's Preliminary Round 1 of the 2015 EAFF East Asian Cup at the Guam Football Association Training Centre in Harmon.

Noetzel is now with the Guam Football Association, serving as its goalkeeper coach.

Meanwhile, around 29 goalkeepers from MP United are expected to attend this weekend's mini camp, which will be divided into five categories: U10, U12, U15, U18, and women's division.

MP United and the six other NMIFA-member clubs are preparing for the 2015 NMIFA Spring Youth League, which will kick off on Feb. 6 at the various schools pitches on the island.



GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION  
Johann Noetzel, seen here saving the ball during the CNMI's game against Macau in the 2015 EAFF East Asian Cup at the Guam Football Association Training Centre in Harmon last year, will be on Saipan this weekend to conduct a goalkeeper mini camp for MP United.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left Senen Pangilinan, Joey Lucido, and Ray Matsunaga pose for a photo during a break in their game in Saipan Bowling Association's blind draw tournament last Sunday at the Smoke Pub Bar in Garapan.

## Lucido rules blind draw billiards tourney

By JON PEREZ  
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REPORTER

Joey Lucido bested 15 other players in the blind draw 8-Ball tournament held last Sunday after the awards banquet of the Saipan Billiard's Association's 2014 summer-fall season Thursday and Tuesday leagues.

Lucido, a member of the regular season runner-up Saipan TV Hustlers, swept all of his four matches to clinch the first finals berth in the double elimination round tournament held at the Smoke Pub Bar in Garapan.

He first dispatched Zaldy Quebral then followed it up with a victory over Rowel Mariano before wrapping up the elims with consecutive wins against Ray Matsunaga. In the finals, Lucido defeated Senen Pangilinan to bring home the \$90 top

purse plus the champions trophy. Pangilinan, who defeated Matsunaga in the loser's bracket semifinals, settled for the \$45 runners-up cash prize. Matsunaga won \$25 for placing third.

Pangilinan, in the loser's bracket, kept his title bid alive

with wins over Thursday league most valuable player Rodel Dela Cruz and Joseph Achas. He recorded his third straight victory by beating Jeff Garcia and earned the right of facing Matsunaga in the semis after disposing of Juancho Mendoza.

Warlee Ellama, Simeon Kapileo, Cesar Sangalang, Nolan Cultura, Chester Cuento, Patrick Cepeda, and Rolly Bermiso were the other players who competed in the one-day tournament.

While some of the top individual players joined the blind

draw tournament, others missed the event, including Tuesday league's MVPs Juancho Mendoza and Marc Brian Nelvis and Thursday league Finals MVP Jerry Soriano. Nelves also won the Tuesday league Finals MVP.

Meanwhile, other award-ees last Sunday were Jonny's Team SCS and Smoke Pub Sang&D'Gang, which got the sportsmanship awards based on all team captains' votes

Route33 Armatech Hustlers topped the regular season and Budweiser Cup in the Thursday league, while Jokers IT&E Voyagers duplicated the feat in the Tuesday league.





Fiery Brady leads Pats vs Colts in AFC title game

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## NMSA to impose stricter rules



JON PEREZ

Despite the visible bubbles and black patches, a number of people are still walking on the Oleai track facility. The Northern Marianas Sports Association will be closing the track to the public once resurfacing of the facility starts.

### Jones homers in Yankees' 8-run 4th

By JON PEREZ  
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REPORTER



Ben Jones homered and the Yankees used an 8-run fourth inning in completing a

17-5 demolition of the North Starz in the 2015 Saipan Baseball League last Wednesday night at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Jones, with one out and

the Yankees staring at a 1-0 deficit, took Jon Tenorio's third pitch and belted a three-run shot tagging along Chris Camacho, who reached first base on a Ricardo Dela Cruz error, and David Camacho, who walked.

Gary Cruz led things off for the Yankees with a single, but was tagged out while trying to steal second base on a 5-4 putout play.

Robert Bansil had a field-

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JON PEREZ

A North Starz player waits for the throw of Yankees pitcher Franco Flores during their game in the 2015 Saipan Baseball League last Wednesday night at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By JON PEREZ  
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Sports Association officials will be stricter in implementing rules and other guidelines for the public use of the Oleai track and field facility once resurfacing is done this year.



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

The 670 Sonics manhandled Rollers 3, 86-34, during the curtain raiser in the 2014 Tan Holdings Basketball Classic last night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

The Sonics' much experienced and deeper bench proved to be too much for the young crew of Rollers 3, as the former never gave the latter any chance to keep up with them throughout the one-sided match.

The Omar Ajoste-coached Sonics pulled away early, taking a 48-15 halftime lead and used the remaining 20 minutes of play to work on their plays and exploit their height and left advantage against Rollers 3.

With the Sonics dominating

NMSA executive director Tony Rogolifo said that they plan to put up a signboard enumerating the rules and guidelines to inform the public of the do's and don'ts in using the track facility.

"We need to control the use of the facility once the resurfacing the track is done and it opens again to the public,"

Rogolifo told Saipan Tribune.

"The public must know that athletes will also use the facility that's why we're asking them to be courteous and not to get in the athletes' way while they are training."

He added that NMSA

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### Sonics pummel Rollers 3, 86-34

the winless Rollers 3, six players hit double figures for the winning squad. Jaymark De Guzman led the Sonics with his 18 points, while Jomar Manzano chipped in 11, and Jack Aranda, Bryle Alegre, Sean Rabasto, and Gerald Flores contributed 10 each.

Aaron Ogumoro had 11 points and was the lone double figure scorer for Rollers 3, which absorbed its fifth loss in as many games.

The Sonics improved their record to 3-2 for solo third place in the eight-team field behind

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The 670 Sonics' Gerald Flores goes up for a shot against Rollers 3's Chris Arceo, right, and Angelo Factor, left, during the second half of their boys U19 game in the 2014 Tan Holdings Basketball Classic last night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

